

KaetteKiba
motoYusha

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ニシ
[イラスト]
米白粕
Written by Nishi
Illustration by
Komeshiro Kasu

Kaette Kita Motoyuusha

by Nishi

[Novel Updates](#)

Translation Group: [Nega Translations](#)

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Chapter 98: Former Hero - Know the value of consolation prize

I lightly drift around within a fluffy-feeling space.

While the inside of my consciousness is still being vacant, I feel that it's not hot but it's also not warm. That's the good feeling that I'm feeling right now. An innumerable hand extend around me.

A lot of soft and white hands grope my body. Being rubbed in many places, this is a kind of pleasure that doesn't exist in this world.

Ah... The bell of blessing is reverberated wonderfully in this Shangri-la. RingDong, RingDong.

After the end of that pleasure, my soul feels as if it has ascended to Heaven. At that time, all of that hands crawls around my body all at once and pinch me It huuuuuurtttttt!?

I came back to reality the moment acute pains run over my body. W-what?!

I woke-up and I tried to raise my upper-body. However, it's painful. So, I gave-up trying to set-up my body.

When I laid back my upper-back, I feel something warm extend on the back of my head.

"Are you awake?"

I lie down and look-up. Then, I saw a moderate swelling... Not that. What I mean is I've seen Mina's face.

It seems I have rested my head on her laps apparently. It seems I'm also wrapped with squishy things all over my body beside the back of my head. When I turned my gaze, I've seen something that's not inferior than the blessing of Sharing-la just a moment ago.

Sharon in my right hand.

Rithina is my left hand.

Celes is on the thigh of my right leg, while my left leg is in between Tanya's thigh.

And then, Laurier is already in top of my stomach.

Somehow everyone is wearing a swimsuit.

What is this? Am I in Heaven?

I am already naked before I notice it.

Ehh? Somehow I'm already naked.

There is also a cold sensation on my lower-half of my body.

No, it's good anyway.

"Etto... Good morning?"

"Good morning. But, it's still night Haruto-sama"

Even though I have awaken in pain, my head is still refreshingly clear. There's something skin-colored in my field of vision when I've woken up so I'm kind of lost if it's dream or not.

Mina answers me gently toward my absentminded greeting.
Apparently, this is not the continuation of my dream.

When I take glance to the window, the outside is certainly still dark.
It seems I have fallen asleep. What time is now?

Everyone has returned. Did the post-night festival has already ended?
Well, that's enough. My naked body is now covered by everyone wearing swimsuits. The skin-to-skin touching feels so good.



Although it is common things to get tangled completely when naked with each other, due to the visual technique of hiding all of the best parts employed by the swimsuits, the girls' skin and the texture of the swimsuit touching my skin, the frustration born from that gives way to some greater carnal feeling welling up inside me.

Is it because I have just woken up or is it because of this situation? I am becoming energetic even though there is still some pain left after using boost.

There is no honour.

Nope Nope, this situation itself is weird.

... Eh? Since I am in paradise earlier I have forgotten something. What was the cause of the pain a while ago?

"Earlier, I woke-up because of a terrible pain. What did you do?"

"After we have returned, Haruto-kun seems very worn-out, so everyone discussed and decided to massage you. Did it hurt?"

Rithina answered my question.

I see. A massage.

"I see. I'm happy to have received a massage on this situation, but I want you to do that after I have woken up"

"Ar. But Haruto-kun, you have said that it's one of your dreams to wake-up on this situation, isn't?"

Umu. It's certainly like she said.

This situation is a little bit different than what I have thought though. But, it's incredibly painful.

Is it so?

Anyway, I can only say this after they did this much for me.

"Thank you"

A word of thanks is flowing from the bottom of my heart.

"Fufu. Hey, Haruto-kun?"

If it's painful to receive a massage, what should we do now?"

After Rithina asking that, I lifted my hand and thrust it in between her two soft swellings.

Fuaa...

My arm is being squished between an elastic feeling now.

Awesome. Even though I already know it before, this feeling is still awesome. You see, my arm kinda disappears when it's being held between those chests.

"Is it not painful?"

"It's pleasant"

Rithina is smiling toward my fake words. She gripped her breast from the right and left and pressed them.

Rithina, who is worried about me, tested different things. Every action she does is erotic. I will once again remember this in deep of my heart.

So cute.

"Nee, Haruto.

On your last amazing acceleration, what did you do?

Can I also do it?"

Sharon is talking to me this time.

She seems get inspired by Rithina after hearing our talk. Sharon takes my arm and sandwiches it between her breast.

Sadly however, she won't be able to cover all of it.

This is sad, but this is also reality.

"No, how should I put it.

It might be possible for you to do it, but it'll be impossible to be like me.

Moreover, I don't recommend it since it'll make you similar to my current condition"

"I see... Muu~"

Sharon is sulking after hearing my answer.

I thought that she will dissatisfied after I don't recommend using that strengthening boost, but apparently it is not.

She hugs my arm closely and holds it with her both of her hand. After that she put my finger in her mouth.

Ofuu...

"Nom... Ith ihs a hamehlehs hideah, his hit hnot?" (TL Note: This is a shameless idea, is it not?"

Eh? Why?

When you're talking while sucking my finger, the way you're talking is gonna be funny.

I understand it roughly.

More like, it's because of you that I had been disqualified you know.

"Well, the race is already over. So it can't be helped"

Is she answering my words?

Somehow she is being entranced while licking my finger, isn't she?

However it's so mysterious.

When the tip of my finger is being licked, my muscles are vibrating.

It's like, there's a desire that needs to be filled.

Sharon's spirit of devotion is high.

And since she's so easily influenced by those around her, I can get her to do certain things to me, leading to her current erotic actions towards me.

Cute.

"Laurier, is your body alright?"

I talked to Laurier who is taking up a position on my stomach.

"Nn? Ah, I am alright.

But to think that the excellent Haruto would end up like this."

Already alright. That's awesome. In case of me, I need to stay in bed for several days.

"That aside. Even though the result was regrettable for Haruto, you still have shown your ability, and I am satisfied"

Laurier said that, and then she leaned herself to my chest having a face with amorous expression.

Her small body is completely settled with my body.

On the end of race, I felt Laurier's small breast on my back. But this time I can feel it on my chest.

Moreover, she buried her face on my neck and begin licking it.

If both of my hands were free, it will be in a situation wherein I've grabbed her ass now.

So cute.

"Celes and Tanya, I'm sorry.

You two were disqualified because of me"

On the other side of Laurier, I called Celes and Tanya.

Simply put, I did bad things to both of them.

So I want to apologize most to these two girls.

"For me.

I didn't think that I would be able to win the race in the first place, so Oni-san

doesn't need to apologize. It's fine"

Celes said that.

What a unselfish girl.

"I was almost winning, you know.

But well, I don't want to complain since I've lost"

Tanya is being frank as usual.

Oh yeah, I have made bet with this fellow.

If I win, she will become my woman.

Even though the result was a disqualification on both sides, but what about it?

Now, I also lost the race. Is it good to consider this as my win?

Usually, Tanya is sleeping soundly on the corner of the bed during this time. But right now, she has joined the circle. She gently strikes my foot. Is it okay to interpret that as an OK confirmation?

"Wa! ... O,oni-san, you're so energetic"

I won't say exactly what part she's looking at but Celes, is now observing my naked 'delight', and stares at it while her face turns red. I won't say what she's looking at though.

My thigh is being stroked by Celes and Tanya's palms. It slowly begins to lengthen and stretch.

When things that goes up, I don't need to say it, don't I?

Both of my feet are being sandwiched by their thighs. They are also caressing it with their hands, the pleasant sensation is very different.

On the other hand, Celes' thigh is a pure white colour that gives the impression of slenderness, as you would expect of an elf. However to that same extent, her skin's smooth texture makes my thighs feel a truly exceptional sensation.

Cute.

As for Tanya's thigh, I can feel her sticking firmly to my skin like a mochi rice cake since she is on her adult mode.

Furthermore, the level of her beast hair has grown to the tip of hands and feet too. Did you take a bath earlier? There is no sticky feeling because the seawater and the silky hairs feels ticklish. It made me shiver when I am being touched and stroked by the tips of her hairs.

So cute.

"Haruto-sama.

It seems you're in pain when moving. So for today, everyone decided to thoroughly ease Haruto.

If you are tired, you can sleep as it is now"

Mina said it while patting my head.

It's a comfortable and pleasant when my head is being patted by Mina. This really gives off a peace of mind. I'm being wrapped by a feeling of satisfaction.

Cute.

Nevertheless, I can't just sleep in a situation like this. Rather, is there any normal guy who can sleep on this situation? If it's me, it's impossible.

Obviously, I feel like doing it everyday.

"I see. To be honest, I am unable to move today, so I am happ—?!"

When I was talking to Mina, Laurier who is in high-spirits, seems to be satisfied licking my neck, and the goes on to kiss me.

"Nom... Nn... Haruto... Nn~~ Kiss~~"

Oufu.

What with you Laurier?

It seems you're different than usual.

There was a situation like this before.

... It is after we fought against that meteor guy.

When I showed-up my ability, she goes dere in an instant. When is it like this, the spoiled Laurier is very wonderful.

Right now, I am being kissed as if I'm being pecked by a selfish woodpecker.

"Gehogeho.

Wa-wait! I can't breath... nmu"

Dangerous. The engine of the transformed Laurier is running wild.

Help me Sharon.

I sent a glance to Sharon.

Sharon, who still holding my finger on her mouth, noticed my glance.

"I, I want to do it too"

Not that, that's not what I mean.

However, since my mouth is blocked by Laurier, it's impossible for me to talk. In the blink of an eye, Sharon who was embracing my arm closely moves close and kisses me. She is kissing me in turns along with Laurier.

After that, everyone comes together as expected.

Me too. I also want it. I want it too. Me too. The storm of kissing purrs down not only on my mouth, but also at the corner of my whole body.

Ah, this is too amazing. I am being consumed.

At that time, there is a voice on my ear.

"Although you can't be the winner, this is the reward for the hard-working Haruto"

I don't know who have said that.

Since she has called me with my first name, is it either Sharon, Laurier, or maybe Tanya?

No, it might be someone else who wants to call me different than usual.

Well, there's no problem with these things.

Is this a dream or reality?

Nope, this is not a dream. This is reality.

This is, the reality that I have obtained with my hands.

The victory, the reward, it's alright if those kind of things cannot be obtained. This is a harem only for me.

It's something that cannot be bought with money.
My harem, is a reward.

Chapter 99: Former Hero - Thinking about the future

Two weeks have passed since the race.

Even though I was asleep for about one week after the race, I was able to live a comfortable life thanks to the girls group for devotedly nursing me.

I still managed to go to the restroom by myself, but I need to be given piggyback rides to go everywhere else.

When I moved, someone drew close to both of my sides to support me, and when it was time to eat, they all took turns to feed me.

I was hoping that they would be feeding me mouth-to-mouth though.

When I took a bath, they carefully washed every corner of my body, and sometimes, they would also use their supple bodies to wash me.

Everyone carried out various ideas to serve me so as to not become a burden for me when the night comes.

This is what I have taught them a long time ago.

Since everyone loves me, they did their best to practice the things that I like.

Moreover, the girls did all of those while wearing maid outfits.

This is exactly like being a King.

During that time, Laurier and Tanya were especially sticking onto me. They are in a dere period.

These two girls cling and sleep together on both of my sides whenever I'm sleeping and unable to move during the daytime.

While my feet is being entangled and their hands are laying on my body, my gaze draws to their breasts all the time.

And then, they are pestering me to kiss them in turns.

How should I put this, they are really cute girls.

Well, the common things in this world will slowly be forgotten while I live like this, so I'm reluctant to continue living this way for a long time.

Being degenerates.

It's like I'll become a beast that only has lust.

To be honest, I have recovered enough on the third day thanks to them, but it took me two days to sever myself from the temptation.

So dangerous.

And then, after the former hero succeeded in returning to the world using willpower which was harder and stronger than orichalcum, awaiting him was the clean-up activity that was the penalty for the disqualification of the race.

It's not like it's necessary for me to do it, is it? Though I said that, well, it can't be helped.

Therefore, for one week, I'll diligently clean the town.

The penalty is basically to clean the coast and pick up the garbage in the town.

Normally, the work needed me to carry a broom and a dustpan, but I decided to improve the efficiency and created a plan for it.

I gather the sand that flutters on the roadside with magic and harden it. Along with this process, I used the tentacles of sand to collect the garbage at the same time.

At the first, I took me time to construct the image, but it is me after all, the former hero.

By the end of the first day, I got the hang of the method and succeeded in surpassing the efficiency which was not able to be done using a broom.

What about the precise control of the sand tentacles?

I have already been accustomed to handling the six girls in my party many times.

So I achieved overwhelming and precise control.

With my improved mood, I did better than I expected and uselessly became motivated. I was determined to go around the city of Angel in this week.

In the first few days, the residents of Angel were fearfully trembling at my figure which was manipulating the tentacles made of sand and collecting garbage, but they gradually got used to it and began to come to observe my magnificent magic technology.

In this area, as expected from the town which gathered a lot of engineers. They are a group of people who cannot win against intellectual curiosity.

Out of them, some came to talk to me directly, and a lot of the time those people would take the opportunity to barrage me with questions. In addition, I deepened my interaction with the children who played in that part of town.

It's not like I dislike kids anyway.

By no means, I'll never do any wicked intention to the girls who will blossom into beautiful girls in several years.

But well, looking after the innocent kids, it's kind of purifying my mind. After drowning in my lust for one week, I had returned back to my innocent self.

Using Restraint of Earth Bind, I created swings, a jungle gym, a seesaw and a slide.

After having made such playground equipment from magic in the open plaza, I suddenly became the children's hero.

When the kids were gathering around me, I also become enthusiastic.

I felt that there were plenty of opportunities to play with the cute girls preferentially, but I wasn't looking at them sexually, it was just a feeling of admiring their lovely simplicity?

Let's leave the kind of things like laying a hand on the 8 years old Tanya to later, right?

For one week, with my contribution to society, the disgrace of being a cheater might have been removed.

Regardless if it's only my name that goes bad, Kagura-san who was also disqualified and in the same party as me has also become known as a cheater. I cannot leave such a strange disgrace.

Come to think of it, Kagura-san has also received a penalty that was different from me.

If I'm not mistaken, she was made to do some activity as an engineer?

I have visited Kagura-san's shop several times after the race, but since it's always closed it's impossible for me to meet her.

If possible I want to get more closer with Kagura-san.

However, Kagura-san's living base is in this town, and since I don't have any intention to settle down in this town, it's become quite a difficult problem.

Leaving that aside, today is the last day of the cleaning penalty, I had splendidly done a clean sweep of the whole town, and I have told the children that today is the last day for me to play in the park.

The kids expressed their emotions directly.

Some disagree and start crying, some gripped my pair of trousers while looking down. There are kids who acted cool saying it's okay but their voice is trembling. There are kids who seem to not be interested and are playing in a place far from me, but they sometimes sneak a peek at me.

Among them, there are little girls who say to stay together and want to marry me when the time comes.

Oh no, they are so cute.

This happened just because I played together with them for one week.

I am also completely filled with watery eyes, I feel like I'm going to stay here permanently.

Kids are not good. They are still too small. Especially for me.

But, a person will become strong after experiencing separation.

I firmly endure my tears, and bid them farewell.

Good bye. Stay strong together you kids.

Afterwards, I silently approach several girls who get along well with me, I told them to "Please approach me again in five years".

This might have become a problem in my former world.

Police-san!

However, several years later, if I come back to this town again, at that time they might join my harem.

Well, the kids might forget as the time passes.

Then, the next day after finishing the penalty.

After being done with the usual morning practice, we gathered to have lunch together at the hotel.

"Hmm... There are some other things that's why I gathered everyone today.

It is because I want to discuss our plans of the future."

There is a table in front me and I sit in the chair. I am in front of everyone who is sitting on the bed, I declare the topic of discussion as the chairman.

Waa... Applause...

I received a thin applause.

Fumu.

The only ones who gave me an applause, is only Sharon and Celes? Thank you.

Rithina sits at the angle about 30 degree from me.

I often see this in puzzle, she looks like the old portraits of an old man.

Since she is a princess, she is likely not gonna applause in the beginning of the conference.

Somehow I understand so it's alright.

Mina is behind Rithina, she is a little bit away from me.

Since she is following after Rithina, so there's no question about that.

Tanya opened her mouth big and yawned.

Where did her dere period go? No, that is completely unrelated.

Oh well. The meeting might be too complicated for a 8 year old kid after all.

Laurier sat on the bed while making crackling sounds with her foot.

This is not the first time she did that.

Does she really only have a one-year difference with Celes?

She is in the same childish group as Tanya. The breast-size too.

Oh well.

Since she stretches her legs apart and makes noise with her foot, I can peek at her panties so I guess it's fine.

Eh? What's with this decision?

It looked like I'm fooling myself.

There is the main subject for now.

"Everyone, as we know, what should we do about this?"

After I said it, I took out a letter from my pocket.

We received this letter after the race ended, it was passed by someone we

didn't know.

Even though I don't remember the fine details because of the pain in my body, the last dash was really terrible. Although we got disqualified, reaching the goal as first place is praiseworthy, or something like that as far as I can remember.

After that, the letter was passed on at the end of the talk. The same letter was also passed to Laurier and Sharon who became the winner team.

I properly read the letter this time. As expected, the experience during the race is painful to remember, and I wasn't stupid enough to act ignorant about it. (TL Note: MC learn his lesson to study the written isekai language)

I comprehend that the contents of letter for Laurier and Sharon was same, I confirmed it with my own eyes. I can do it if I tried.

Well, I have been taught by Sharon and Rithina. Although the topic has strayed a bit, but my understanding on the different world language is progressing a lot these two weeks. I am still unable to read smoothly, but I'm proud to be able to read bit by bit. And thus, why is the studying progress fast? It's because of the method of studying from Rithina.

The method is simple. Whenever I can digest something, I'll get a reward from one girl.

It is a kiss, a service, touching the breasts, and rubbing the butt.

Even if the person related is not in charge, I can get it anytime and anywhere that I want. I despise myself for not thinking of it.

Of course, it feels good to kiss when I want to, but it is said that it is a reward. Being kissed by Sharon while she said "You done it well, here is your reward!", good grief, it kinda gives it quite a different meaning.

And, if being taught by Sharon is like a study meeting with a childhood friend, being taught by Rithina is like an individual class with a female teacher.

Rithina bends forward and she showed the cleavage of her breasts, "You seem to have done well, what do you want as a reward?" and she grabs the tie at my neck with her fingertips~~"I want teacher as my reward!" and then press her against the desk, from behind....

"Hey! The study is not finished yet, you know?"

"Sensei! I, I can't endure it any longer!"

"Mou... What a problem kid. I'll give you supplementary lessons later, okay?"

That said, Rithina is easy to get into.

That is, I want glasses for her.

There is no other reason why my study can make progress with this. Although there was a thing that doesn't make progress in another meaning either.

... Oops, I strayed from the topic too far.

The content of the letter from the first to the last, I confirmed it by reading with my eyes.

And then, there is only one point of it, if I can summarize the content.

『You have been invited to the battle tournament which will be held in four months.』

Chapter 100: Former Hero - Read the letter

"First, what is Haruto-kun going to do?"

Rithina asks the most important point..

It would be no exaggeration to say that even though I will hear and respect everyone's opinion, I am the one who would make final-decision on this party in the end.

No matter how anyone may object it, if I say that I want to go by all means, it would likely be the end result.

Well, as long as there are no excruciating circumstances, it won't turn into situation where I will be overcoming their opposition, though.

Well then... What is it that I want to do?

"Honestly, I don't like to do something this troublesome"

I express my thoughts honestly .

"Ee.... You are not interested?"

It is a battle tournament, you know? A battle tournament!"

When she heard that I said it was "troublesome", Sharon made an objection. I'm sure you want to go, right? That's obvious.

For the time being, I decide to hear everyone's opinions first.

As the result, the group who wants to go is Sharon, Laurier, and Tanya. The group which is fine with either decision is Rithina, Mina, and Celes. The group who doesn't want to go is me.

Oi, am I the 1-man group? I felt like I'm being alienated. No, it would be okay even if we go. Either way is good. That's right. I'm also in "fine with either decision" group. .

I'm glad, I am not the 1-man group.

Then.

Since there is no one in group which doesn't want to go, shall we go then?

However, it was a bit unexpected for Rithina to say that she's fine with whatever decision.

I was thinking whether Rithina would surely be going with what she would like to do.

Also, Tanya seems wanting to go, I wonder if this girl understands that she herself hasn't got the letter.

Probably not.

I suppose there is a limit on number of participants as well.... right?

"Alright. Then, let's follow participation route "

Although we have gathered in exaggeration, the decision was easily achieved. In the first place, this matter is not the one where there would be disputes.

In any case, what should I do with my current situation?

One. I don't have any money.

Second. Because I have been disqualified from the race, I can't earn money by registering as an adventurer.

Third. Since I don't have any money, I cannot receive/buy/have made of me a weapon.

For the first two, I would probably be able to manage it, I guess?

During the week I was cleaning the town due the penalty, Laurier became an adventurer with Sharon in this town.

Having received an honor of being the race winners, they have been registered as adventurers which was a special privilege in their case.

Thus, I'm thinking that if I can have the town see it in a way of me being a helper to Sharon's work, I should be able to make some pocket money out of it. Just in case, I have confirmed that there won't be any problem even if the guild's work accepted by the adventurers is done by other people as long as the same adventurers are acting as supervisors.

Certainly, because there won't be any meaning to restriction of making a new registration when someone overdoes all the same, they have to watch over this in moderation. At this point, a warning would be given by guild's people too.

The main problem is the weapon.
Even if I can earn pocket money, it is unlikely I would be able to earn enough for a brand new weapon.

I don't want to rely too much on her, but should I ask Rithina and borrow some money from her...

No, I feel like I would be giving a bad example to others. So troubling.

"Haruto-kun"

After disbanding the discussion forum, as I was staying in my room and worrying by myself, Rithina came to talk to me.

"N? What is it? ... Are you both of you alright to be late?"

Right now, in this room there are only Rithina and me, as well as Mina who is waiting in the back..

If I'm remembering it correctly, I heard that today the girls were supposed to go shopping together.

"We will go too before long"

"Yes. I asked everyone to go ahead"

the two girls answered my question.

"I see. So, what's wrong? Did you left something behind?"

Since both of them answer one after another, it's not about something forgotten, right?

"I have been thinking that I should confirm something with Haruto-kun, for a short while"

Haa. What is it?

"Haruto, what are you planning for the future? That's what I want to know"

Rithina said that with a serious face.

Future?

Haven't we already decided to go to battle tournament a moment ago after this?

No, maybe it's not about the short-term future?

"Etto... it's not about going to the battle tournament... right?"

"Yeah, that's right"

To my question lacking self-confidence, Rithina sweetly smiles.

"Well, I think it'll be embarrassing to be asked so suddenly. Therefore, here"

After Rithina said that, she presented to me the two letters.

The envelope is somewhat gorgeous and has an ornament on it.

"The one letter has just arrived yesterday. It's from father"

Father?

Father, you mean... the King?

Eh?! The King!?

Rithina has been sending letters to the royal capital regularly.

The other side did it too.

I wasn't particularly meddling with this matter, the communication seemed natural I believe it might have been the reports regarding me.

This letter from the King has come yesterday and she is giving to to me?

I wonder why?

I only hope it's not something bad.

My spine is like cracking now.

"Hey, Haruto-kun?

It doesn't have bad content, you know?"

When she looked at me trembling and sweating, Rithina made a follow-up.
Is it not bad news? Phew, I'm glad.

"I-I see. Then, the other one?"

The number of envelopes is two. No, since the contents are two, then it's two letters? Either way is fine, I suppose.

"This one I have written last night"

Did Rithina write it?

"I... See... Then, what is it about?"

Since I don't understand its contents , I ask Rithina for the explanation, however.

"Because we will go to shopping soon, I don't have time to explain it. T-h-a-t's-w-h-y, please read the content of the letter slowly in the meantime, okay?"

Rithina quickly winks at me.

Oh no, she is so cute. My heart has tighten-up for a moment there.

Wait, does she mean that can I read the letter by myself? Seriously?

"Read it slowly and please consider its content... This is your little homework"

Content... Are the matters that were asked by Rithina a little while ago written in it?

However, reading it by myself... This is troublesome, "if you can do it before night, I will then..."

Before I revealed my complaint, Rithina continues speaking.

And then, she slouches while saying so and places her hand on my cheek.

Her face get closer.

In addition, her hand move along my neck and then to my chest.

G-gulp.

If..... if I read it and consider (its content) properly, then, at night, what will happen?

I, I will do my best!

I'm so easy.

Is she satisfied watching my appearance? Rithina suddenly laughs, and separates her hand from me.

Ah, I'm still throbbing hard.

"Then, I'll right back. Please do your best"

Chu... Before leaving, Rithina lightly kisses me on mouth and then heads towards the door..

I have reconfirmed once again my reading skill after one week study.

That girl is really genius if it's about drawing out my motivation.

I have no other way but to find out the letter's content even if I have to do anything, and write a reply before night.

"H... have safe trip"

Although I haven't expected it, I'm still fluttered because that kiss. I send her off with stuttering voice.

Mina soundlessly opens the door and Rithina gets out from the room.

At that moment, she whispers something to Mina.

After being surprised for a moment, Mina takes a glance to me.

I wonder what is it?

When I'm still guessing, Mina doesn't move to follow Rithina, and instead comes to me.

"Oh? T-this is!"

"Haruto-sama. Umm... I, I will go too"

Mina saying so while fidgety moving, she then kissed me.

Umu.

This is as expected.

After that, before I said "see you soon", Mina ran away like an escaping rabbit.

W,why?

The reason on why Mina felt shy, I still don't understood it well.

However, the "see you soon" kiss of two people gave me the maximum rise-up in motivation.

This might be good chance.

The letter, shall I firmly check it?

Then, during this daybreak... Kukuku....

My spirit has gone-up.

At the evening.

The girls have not returned yet.

I remembered they have talked about eating dinner outside, so it seems they

are not gonna return for the time being.

That's good.

As I am now, I still digest the homework left by Rithina.

Seriously, , it took me a day to decipher a single letter. Though I have to confirm the detailed words, I managed to grasp the rough content.

First of all, the letter from King.

"Summary"

*Are you getting well with that man (meaning me)?
Papa is worried.*

*I heard you crossed the border, do you go to Elize Kingdom?
Sometimes I want you to come at a distance where I can see your face.
Papa is worried.*

*I also heard about the incident in Iris from Marquis Cordetto.
I was relieved after hearing you're alright.
Papa is glad.*

*We still don't understand well about the golem even after examining it.
Our intelligence division is useless. I might gonna reduce their salary later.*

However, I was relieved when I heard you knocked it down at the international border.

*Since you seemingly defeated the golem, the financial support from the Marquis's household had finished.
Although I believe you're gonna be safe, but if you start feeling hungry, you can return back home.*

At that time, I'll make sure that guy (talking about me) will receive a suitable reward.

*Last thing, about the previous matter, what you written and sent by the letter is OK.
There is a good place for it, so if you do that, Papa will be glad.
Morelike, you did well found it. Papa was surprised.*

I want to write various things, it will be soon the time for audience right now, so I will leave it at that.

*Papa will looking forward for the letter from Rithina.
Take care.*

Although my translation ability is just so-so, but it's roughly like that.

*Who expect it. That King.
Are you a foolish parent-type?
No, it's charming, so he might be fine in particular.
But, I wonder what it was about the reward? I'm kinda scared to know.*

Rather than such a thing, the important thing is the part about the passage from this previous .

Saying that Rithina has written it, she has written one more letter.

Letter from Rithina.

"Summary"

Recently, I know that Haruto-kun is embarrassed because he has no money. Although I want to help out, but Haruto seems don't want it, so I give-up.

Thus, since the matter I was thinking about from before has been acknowledged, I want to propose something.

Travelling together with Haruto-kun is a great deal, but I'm a princess, so I cannot go far away due to that.

So I was thinking on what I should do, and came to know that Haruto-kun is able to use a very convenient magic called teleportation magic.

Then, how about a territory in the Millis Kingdom?

Fortunately or unfortunately, the public order is bad in the kingdom, it's a land that has turned lawless and being inhabited with monsters and thieves hideouts.

Even the Knight Order in the country, they cannot solved this painful problem easily.

It is necessary to reduce the Knight Order salary.

There is also different reason too, if Haruto-kun can suppress the land with using his power, it seems possible to have him recognized as a Lord over there.

The Hero Lion, although there was discussion about it too, but I cannot trust the land in the country to the Hero which comes from the Church.

While we travel around the world, if we can still move in and out the land with using teleportation magic, we will also be able to make money by using the tax revenue, and I think that we can build a shop that Haruto wanted. What do you think?

Well, this feeling.

Umu. This is really turned into amazingly big discussion.

I did speak clearly than I'm not interested in power.
I have not interested in power in the previous world, so I was sent back to the Earth.

So, I don't have an interest to become Lord either.
I don't but... The other proposals seem very attractive.

Umumu...

To begin with, I'm sure I'm not gonna be able to do domestic affairs.

However, Rithina seems have made consideration about it, so I would be a symbolic beings in the land instead.
Whenever there is an emergency, I'll go to the frontline, and everything about domestic affairs can be left to the talents from the country.

I also wonder if this is fine to be like that, but it's clear as day that I won't be working diligently to bring satisfactory results.

Rithina is probably thinking about what would happen in the future

What should I do?

When I first came to this world, I didn't want to approach any power, that was my policy.

However, well, I was nonchalantly attracted by maid in the royal capital, and after that I got acquainted with Rithina.

... Un. I see.

Well, this is not bad either, I guess.

Chapter 101: Former Hero - Being trained

Rithina is happy.

Although she usually shows a radiant smile, I can say that today's smile is special.

The reason should be obvious, it's because I have accepted her proposal.

"I'll send a letter to my honorable father immediately, or maybe tomorrow! After the reign is established, I will ask him to reserve the various expenses and secure the capable people whom he will dispatch. As for the things that seem necessary, I've already calculated them"

Rithina take out a letter from the shelf while saying it in a seemingly lively voice.

Oi, wait.

Why has the letter to the King-sama already been completed?

Does that mean that she has foreseen whether I would accept proposal or not?

Does she simply believe that she can rely on me?

I suppose it's half the former and half of the latter.

Oh well.

It's good and all, but even if it's nice to have the people arranged beforehand, we still have to annihilate the monsters and the bandits first, right?

I wonder, shouldn't I be more worried about whether that expenditure goes well?

No, if I said I would do it, I would surely do it without fail.

More importantly, what about the reward? Hey, where is my reward?

Being restless, I begin wandering behind Rithina who is preparing to send the letter.

However, Rithina doesn't bring up the subject of the reward.

Eh?

Don't tell me, she hasn't forgotten about it or anything, right?

Maybe I shouldn't stay behind her and move in front of her and start appealing some more?

Rithina puts the letter into the envelope and finishes sealing it with a stamp while I am worrying about my options.

Calm down, me.

The reward will surely come after this.

Only due to my anticipation, I straighten my somewhat slouching posture and face Rithina.

Doki-doki.

"Haruto-kun"

"Ye-yes!"

Even my voice becomes excited after being called out by Rithina.
I have been telling you, I'm not a dog, me!

"Then, shall we begin today's study?"

I let out a considerably hysteric voice towards the words which I couldn't believe to have departed from Rithina's mouth.

No-no-no, wait. This is strange.

Look, today, I have definitely been deciphering the letter for a whole day, you know.

Thanks to that, I have managed to understand the subject of the letter and have generally accepted Rithina's proposal.

Everything, I have done everything for the sake of the reward. Yes.
And yet, is she saying that we are going study during the night too?

No-no, she's kidding, there is no way...

No way... that's absurd...

This is a protest. I should voice my objection with a resolute determination.
Such injustice cannot possibly be permitted.

"Well... to-today is already... still...?"

"That's because today will be a special session, you know"

Rithina says something with some deep meaning when I try to raise a protest. She also takes out a little box from the luggage that she bought today when she went out with everyone.

"S... special session?"

I wonder in what way?

My gaze focuses down on a small box held by Rithina. And then, this little box is flipped open.

"T-this is... Glasses!?"

The thing inside the little box, it's the glasses. Even if they look unfashionable with their thick black rim, those are unmistakably glasses.

I have never seen anyone in this world wearing glasses at all. I don't know the exact reason. Though I think it's because there are no people with extremely bad sight. They are correcting their eyesight by subconsciously strengthening their physical abilities with magical power, I suppose.

No, such inquiries do not matter at the moment. The most important thing now is the fact that there are glasses here.

"Although I had them be made in a hurry, do they have the same shape as what Haruto-kun described?"

Said Rithina.

As what I described...

Now that she mentioned it, I did say something along the line of "If Rithina wears glasses, she will look more like a female teacher" when Rithina-sensei was teaching me around one week ago.

I remember that we have talked about this and that in regards to the form of the glasses at that time.

I see. So she was paying attention to our conversation at that time, and then she had them expressly made?

Jiin.

I am feeling somewhat happy.

"They are really good"

"Is that so? I'm glad. Fufu"

It is because I looked strange as I was deeply moved inside? Or is it something else? Rithina shows me an extraordinary smiles.

I want to hold Rithina and bring her to bed just for that smile alone. However, this is where I will be patient.

I take out the glasses from the small box and look over their details.

Is it because they have been made in rush? Or is there no technology to work on fine details? The part which hangs the glasses on the ears doesn't seem to fold.

Their shape is completely fixed.

Well, it's not like it damages their appearance as glasses, but it will be difficult to store them like that.

The lens are properly inserted into the glasses.

No, seeing as how it doesn't look like the lens are made with glass, should I still call them "lens"? Oh well, whatever.

Even so, how admirable of her to be able to reproduce the glasses which I described based only on my verbal explanation to such an extent. Awesome.

"Then, I'll wear it immediately"

"Ah, yes. Please do"

Although I was in trance while looking at the glasses, I came to my senses due to Rithina's words, and handed her the glasses.

Rithina puts on the glasses now.

Ooh, awesome.

The impression of an enigmatic female teacher.

Though I'm kinda prejudiced because my teacher in the sixth grade of elementary school was wearing eyeglasses at that time, but anyone who just wears glasses will be totally seen as teacher to me.

"H-how... is it?"

Feeling a little bit nervous, Rithina asks about my impression with an upward glance.

At this moment, I have understood what I have to say.

... No, simple flattery or a stereotyped compliment won't cut it, I should say what I feel from the bottom of my heart.

"They really suit you, You look the most charming than ever"

"I-is that so? Thank you.

B-but, what a mysterious feeling. Fufufu"

Even if she is told that they suit her, she might not understand it. Is it because the item called "glasses" is not popular here, I wonder?

However, Rithina's face still blushes a little. She goes full "deredere" mode.

Yep, she is so cute.

"T-then, shall we start studying now?"

"Yes. I understand... Ah, that's right"

"? What is it?"

Rithina switches from the "dere mode" to the "teacher mode" and tries to start a lesson now, but suddenly I get hit by an idea.

"Please wait for a moment"

I say to Rithina and then move to the one of our small rooms in the hotel. In the hotel we are staying at, there are three rooms besides the large room with the bed.

We will go to one of the rooms to hold a lesson eventually, so I go to the room where our baggage is placed and get something from the bag.

After that, I return back to the large room with the coveted item.

"Rithina-sama. Please hold this during the study session"

I hand over that item to Rithina.

"Is this ... a whip?"

Yes, the whip. The one which teachers use.

Since I don't have the teaching stick, so I decided to substitute it with the short

whip that I have stolen from the room in the basement in the Royal Capital.

Rithina is wearing glasses and holds a whip.

This is amazing.

From any angles I see her, she looks like a female teacher.

When she hold the whip in her right hand and bends it a little with her left hand, she looks way too perfect.

"Whip... a whip...

Ha-Haruto-kun, for you to having such hobby...

But, this might also be good... Maybe..."

While I'm being fascinated with Rithina the female teacher, she voices a small complaint as she holds the whip.

Eh? Eh?

Rithina-san, aren't you misunderstanding something?

"Ano... Rithina-sama?

The purpose for having you hold that whip is..."

Apparently, we produced a weird misunderstanding. When I try to say something to resolve it, the back of my hand is stricken with a *swoosh*.

It hurts, you know?!

"Haruto-kun. During the studying, whispering is forbidden.

Sit down on the chair quickly"

Hii.

Rithina's switch has been flipped.

Being overwhelmed by this mysterious intimidation, I sit on the chair like I was told.

Is this is the power of glasses, I wonder?

Looking at me who obediently followed her order, Rithina's face is blushing like she is in daze.

It's totally like... there is a new door was opened inside Rithina.

Her class has changed from the Princess to the Queen.

"Now, first, start writing from this sentences.

.... Nevertheless, it's very hot today"

While giving instructions to me, Rithina say that and unfastens the button on the clothes, exposing her cleavage.

No-no, although it's certainly hot today, isn't there some other reason that you are feeling hot right now?

That aside, Rithina is currently wearing glasses, exposing her cleavage, and also holding whip in her hand.

Uwaa, this is amazing.

When I am looking at her appearance, my hand is suddenly stricken against the desk by Rithina.

"I told you to write the sentences down, where do you think you looking at?"

It surprised me.

S-so scary-yy.

Even her tone is changing for some reason.

It's like she is really a Queen. Of a different kind.

"I want her to abuse me like a pig more"...

No, as expected I just can't say it.

The angry Rithina brings her face close to me.

She shows a smile like she is enjoying it, she looks incredibly erotic and captivating.

And then, her breast also comes near if it's the most natural thing.

So close, so close, so close.

If you go on like this, I'll see end up seeing it, you know.

There is no reason for me not to see it.

Wait, what with this situation? Is it "candy and whip" kind of situation?

But... I still think that it's still not that bad.

"Haruto-kun is also feeling hot, right?

For every one subject you solve, I'll unfasten one button"

As she says that, Rithina brushes gently the tip of the whip she is holding in her hand across my cheek.

Hiii....?!

Why? I was just being patted with the tip of a whip, why am I getting thrilled?
Am I gonna see the heights that I have never seen yet?

This feeling, it kinda remind me of something.
I wonder what it was.

However, my study session with Rithina has advanced without me having time to remember it clearly.

Two hours later.

I persisted till the end during the one hour of language studies as well as one more hour of physical studies. Then today's session ended.

Rithina has also exhausted her strength during physical studies, and is now peacefully sleeping on the prepared sofa.

It's indeed a full-packed two hours.

While we were at it, Celes entered in with the drinks. She then instantly made a U-turn and went out.

It seems she has been compromised, that girl.

In any case, there is Celes's case to consider, and I just remembered that feeling that I felt at the beginning.

It's "that".

The sense I felt when I was being stepped on by Laurier.

I see, it's that kind of feeling.

When I was correcting Rithina's clothes, I was thinking about something.
If I obtain some money, I should try to make the high-heeled shoes.

Chapter 102: Former Hero - Growing-up

"It's closed..."

The next day, I go to visit Kagura's shop after sinking Sharon into the sea on pinning techniques during morning training.

However, the shop's door remains closed even today.

Moreover, there was the aforementioned Rithina's proposal the other day, so I had something that I wanted to discuss with her for a bit. Two weeks have passed since the race, but I haven't met Kagura not even once during the several times that I went to her store.

Why is it closed every time I come?

Both the front door of the shop and the back door of her house are locked. There is also no response even when I when I ring the doorbell.

Don't tell me, she is not lying collapsed inside or something, right?

"No way" – I thought, but having succumbed to that strange worry, I decide to use a "search" and check the inside of the shop.

I am reluctant to use it to intentionally search inside people house but it can't be helped. I'm doing this because of a probable off-chance.

I cling to Kagura-san's house door, and sound out the situation inside.

Umu. There is no noone moving inside.

However, there wouldn't be any movements if she did collapse by some chance.

I carefully explore whether there is something shaped like a person lying inside.

I can't let minor stuff being overlooked.

Mumumu...

This object lying in the bathroom, what is it?

Size wise, it may look like pantsu.

Good grief, Kagura-san is so worrisome.

If you manage things so sloppy, you won't even notice that they're gone, you know?

... No. I'm not going to do anything.

... Eh, no, wait a minute.

This situation where I'm checking up on such things...

... Although I say that I'm worried, it doesn't seem like there is anyone collapsed inside.

If that's the case, what about the aforementioned fallen panties?

The surface area seems awfully smooth.

Don't tell me, it's the string...

"What are you doing?"

Uwaa?!

I was surprised.

I was looking Kagura-san's pants... No, I was worried if something happened to her. While I was looking at the situation inside the house in daze, I didn't noticed there was someone behind me.

When I look at my back, there is Sharon who is shouldering a big rucksack standing there.

"Sh-sharon... Why are you here?"

"That, I want to heard if from you first..."

I see.

Sharon doesn't display a suspiciousness, but there is doubt floating on her face.

There is someone who is not entering the shop via windows, or listening to the sounds on the door, but instead standing up in front of the door. That would likely make other people curious. "What is that person doing?" – they would think.

That will make person look suspicious in itself.

"I want to discuss something with Kagura-san and so I've come here, but it seems she is not at home"

I explain it to Sharon.

After the race ended, I had visited the shop several times, but I was unable to meet her because it's always closed.

"? If it's Kagura, she comes to Kuratou everyday though?"

Having heard my explanation, Sharon says that with puzzled face.

Nn? Is that so?

... Eh? Seriously?

To Kuratou?

The is the first time I hear that Kagura-san comes to Kuratou everyday. I believe no one've said it earlier.

According to Sharon, it seems Kagura has been coming to Kuratou everyday from the time I was busy cleaning due penalty regulation.

It seems that everyone was thinking that I knew about that since I should have been told that one way or another by Rithina. And at nights, it wasn't the kind of topic to discuss in particular.

Now that I think about it, I never went to the town's outskirts where Kuratou was located when I was cleaning the town.

No, I did go there once, but there wasn't anyone in particular over there at that time.

Even if I say that I went there, my timing must have been bad, I guess.

No wait, I didn't hear anything about it from Rithina in the first place, you know? It's really the first time I hear about it.

Did she forget to say it? Although Rithina wouldn't like herself if she did that....

... Oh well.

If it's true that Kagura-san comes to Kuratou, then I should be able to meet her if I go there.

"Is that so? I didn't know. Then, I suppose I should go there later.

... By the way, why is Sharon here?"

After my worries have faded away, I ask another question.

"Kagura-san asked me to take some tools from the shop"

While saying that, Sharon shows the key in her right hand.
I see, so she is on errand, right?

"I see. Then I'll help carrying the luggage"

"Eh? It's not like I can't do it... Umm, okay then. Thank you! Haruto!"

Sharon tries to refuse my offer but then she obediently accepts it after seemingly thinking about it for a bit.

This consideration of hers with which she tries to stand up to me nonchalantly, it's spreading in my heart.

After that, Sharon and I enter Kagura-san's house and take the tools written in the note and pack them into the rucksack.

Although I cannot read the technical terms yet just like Sharon, there are details along with illustrations being properly specified in the note showing the item's locations.

If she makes this effort to write such a detailed note, wouldn't it be faster for Kagura-san to come here herself? Just when I think of it, the tools turn out to be very heavy.

Should Kagura-san carry this luggage, I'm sure she would collapse before distancing even 10m from shop.

Many of the tools written in the note are located in the inner workroom or the store's front.

There is no reason to check the bathroom.

There is no way I will think that it's really regrettable.

Right now, there is no way I will be disturbed with the imagination of string panties.

What's most important is what's inside.

"Haruto, why do you looks so restless?"

Eh? Am I looking restless? Where? There is no such like that at all, you know?

"Well, I somewhat understand it though"

Sharon glances at me with reproachful eyes and returns back to collecting the tools without minding it much.

What did she mean when she told “I somewhat understand”, I wonder? Don’t tell me, Sharon shouldn’t know about the thing dropped in the bathroom?

If that’s so, then what did she mean?

Is it that?

That I, the one worthy of being a former hero, is looking into the dressers in other people’s houses, and feel delighted collecting the underwear? Did she mean that?

Good grief, such impoliteness!

Whoever I may be, I will not go that far.

At most, I’ll only be observing you girls underwear when it’s being washed.

.... That’s the most I will do.

Towards Sharon’s cruel assumption, I send a silent protest. While I’m doing that, Sharon seems to have finished collecting the tools which were located nearby.

Then she tries to take the tool placed high on the shelf.

However, is the height perhaps too much for her? She is just barely unable to reach. It may be due to this height being the normal arrangement for Kagura-san who is taller than me.

Even though she tries to stand on tiptoes, her fingertips are still unable to reach it.

She may be able to reach it if she jumps, but the tool must be heavy. Should it fall on her head, it would be dangerous.

"I’ll pick it up. Tell me which one it is"

I stand behind Sharon and extend my hand towards the tool that she has been working hard to take just now.

I am taller than Sharon’s, but it doesn’t make that much of a difference. If both of us stand side by side, my line of vision will see Sharon’s head just right.

However, the 10cm difference means everything at times like this.

When Sharon's height is just barely unable to reach it, mine will be just barely manage to do so.

"Here you go"

I take the hammer-like tool from the shelf and hand it to Sharon.
Kagura-san, you shouldn't put heavy objects like hammers in high places.

"Ah... T-thank you"

When Sharon receives the hammer-like tool from me, she looks at my face with warm expression unlike her usual energetic self.

Nn? What is it?

"T-then!.... N-next... Please get me that!"

When I am looking her in return, Sharon panics and turns away her face.
Then she directs towards the place of the next tool.

Her face is definitely red.
Hmm.. What?

.... Ah, I see.
This situation, where there is a boy who is taller her, is it Sharon's weak point?

Fu.

I see I see. I understand.
So this is Sharon-chan weakness?

At the fifth grade of elementary school, it was a right judgement on my part to always get the leftover milk and drink it.
The milk is great.

Alright.
Then, I'll pick it up for her.

Sharon-san. Please enjoy as much as you want.

Afterwards, I kept collecting the tools.
Though I say it like that, the numbers were not that many, so I finished collecting them with no problem.

"Is these all?"

I pass the last tool to Sharon.

"Yes. Thank you! It ended much earlier than I thought it would, thanks to Haruto!"

Sharon replies me with a smile on her whole face.

Although this is not a big deal at all, it feels good when you are thanked.

Sharon and I sit down side by side on the entrance's floor and give ourselves some rest.

It's close enough for our shoulders to touch each other, but it's not an action I took.

It's Sharon who has come to sit on my right side.

And then, we hold each other fingers entwining them together.

Fufufu.

It's very effective.

The situation where I take the luggage from the high location for Sharon, it's extremely effective.

Sharon's hand is soft and pleasant to touch even though she trains to fight everyday.

Her breast shouldn't even be mentioned, but there is squishy feeling when I touch her body anywhere.

What is this feeling I wonder.

I feel like it wouldn't be strange for her to be a muscular macho girl should be we on earth, but since that's not possible, I wonder if that's a side effect of reinforcing her body strength with magic.

That counts for myself as well; despite how strong I am, I'm not actually that muscular.

Moreover, although I haven't met them personally yet, I've heard that there are those who can control magic power well to stay young in both mind and body and to be alive for time longer than any human could possibly imagine. If it's true, magic is amazing. Magic banzai. I'll following the path of magic-san for my whole life.

However, the information comes from the wizard of my former party, so it

can't be ascertained truly.

"That old man is not an old man" – that's the tsukkomi that I always did.

Ah... Well, I didn't really hear him clearly naming his age. I wonder if that old man age passed one thousand years already ?

Well, that's fine.

When Sharon's hand is so squishy, I can't possibly endure it anymore. But, we need to deliver the tools to Kagura after this, so there is no time left, I guess.

Endure it. This is where I need to endure.
I am not a monkey who is always in heat through all his years.
I always consider the time and location.

"Nee... Haruto?"

"N? W-what?"

As I am still constructing the spirit of steel inside of me, Sharon starts talking timidly to me.

Her face is deeply red when I take quick glance on her. She seems very embarrassed.

Her thighs are also somewhat fidgety moving around...?

"You see... Ka-Kagura-san, I told Kagura-san that I would going to get some meal first after going from here"

Hoo. Meal. Fumu fumu.

"And then... after that... I said that I will need to do something else for a bit... So, umm... ne... We don't need to hurry"

Sharon who is always cheerful and active is currently bashful as she keeps talking with any of those qualities of hers remaining.

Hee, no need to hurry.
And then, what do you mean by that?

... No, I can already guess what Sharon wants to say. I've guessed it. Thanks to you, I've guessed it.

However, Sharon right now is so cute, I want to savor it till the last minute.

"Then... so... C-can't we continue... the morning thing?"

What is "the morning thing"? To continue what?
Has something happened this morning?

I try to recall what happened this morning.
After I got up in the morning, I enjoyed touching Sharon's bottom while she was still sleeping, is that it?
No, this is different. That's already finished in the morning.

Ah, I see, maybe it's that?

During the morning practice, I've used pinning techniques on Sharon, thoroughly groped and knocked her down.

I have been only touching her, and it's seems connected on the situation we are in right now.

Fu.

I have known Sharon for a long time. Last night, this morning, and right now, she seems not satisfied yet.
She has been considerably corrupted by me. I think it's really wonderful.

I see, I understand.
Besides, when there is girl looking up to me with a bashful expression and asking "Can't we?", her real intention doesn't matter. There is only one answer I will give.

I pull Sharon's hand and hold her body close to my chest.

=====

Fuu!

It's amazing even if I say it by myself,.

Before, I thought of myself as the hero from Ero-doujin. I thought I can pull through this much.
After I was partner to Sharon and Laurier, I then added the third person, Mina, to challenge my limit.

However, look at me today.

Last night, after working hard on physical education during Rithina's class, I kept company to five people. This morning, I've also made it with Mina and Sharon.

And now, I've made some comfortable sweat with Sharon.

Awesome. I am just awesome,.

Furthermore, since I'm somewhat subconsciously strengthening my functions in some aspects, I guess it's a sort of stunt to try to do.

It seems I am still able to grow more...?!

If it's with everyone, then I should be able to become even stronger!

Humans are always trying to adapt to their environment after all.

"Sharon, are you alright? Can you stand?"

I reach out to Sharon who is still sitting on the floor.

"U, un. I'm alright. But Haruto, you've been a little too intense..."

Sharon takes my hand and tries stands up as she staggers.

She is voicing some protest from her mouth, but her expression is that of a full satisfaction. I am greatly pleased with that.

"We have been sweating so let's borrow the bathroom for a moment"

"Un, yes"

Ha!

Just now, I've just casually proposed it, but will we go to the bathroom?

This is not good.

Despite that I have gotten the good atmosphere with Sharon in great effort, if we go to the washroom now, what will I do after she sees Kagura-san's panties?

I feel that there won't be any problems at all, but it is certainly not good.

That's why, I enter the washroom first so I can recover that object before Sharon sees it.

Yes, I think that it's a way which can't go wrong.

Needless to say that after I collect the thong and confirm the shape before

Sharon finishes her preparations, I return it properly.

I will not steal. I won't.

Chapter 103: Former Hero - Stops being worried

"What is this?"

As I was carrying the damn heavy rucksack packed with luggage on my back, Sharon and I joined our hands in the lovey-dovey mood while we were going to the place where Kurato was. Though when I saw its completely changed appearance, I just absentmindedly stared at it.

Though Kurato itself also had its undercarriage or whatever disassembled, what was more intriguing is that there was a huge boxcar sticking close to it from behind.

If I am to assume that it was trying to be a 2-storey bus thus far, now it's a railroad car of some local line district.

"Kagura-san! Sorry, we've come this late. Here, we've brought them!"

"Oh... Thank you. You can put them over there..."

Sharon passes to Kagura-san the luggage that we've brought.

"Hi. It's been a while"

"Oh... If it isn't Haru-kun. It's been a while..."

I also come up to Kagura-san after Sharon and greet her.

Even though it's a reunion after being parted for two weeks, there wasn't any joyous atmosphere lingering.

The reason for that is because Kagura-san is in the state where she seems like she could die anytime now

I-Is this girl alright?

She is sweating greatly. Is it because she has been working under the summer sun?

Was she unable to stand that sunlight? She is lightly dressed tucking every nook and cranny like that time with the swimsuit, and her clothes are getting even more soaked in sweat from that.

Although she is currently the same she was during the race, the eroticness is increasing just due to the fact that she is wet from her sweat.

... Ah, I really am a terrible pervert.

Everything is because I've become all sweaty with Sharon earlier. It can't be helped, right? I'm not at fault here.

More importantly, the real problem is that it's terrible that Kagura-san is in peril.

"Are you alright? What about heatstroke? Please take care of yourself"

"Yeah... It's because I've been working inside until yesterday so I was still alright. Though I did make light of summer's sunlight... I thought I would definitely be alright, judging by my fine composure during the race..."

It seems that upon me being worried about her, the person herself quickly understood her own situation.

When we entered the sea during the race or when she almost didn't move due to me carrying her in my arms, I wonder if she thinks of that as us working together under the blazing sun.

"If there is anything I can do, I will do it. Kagura-san, can you give me instructions from the shade?"

"I will be helping too!"

When I try to offer my help, Sharon steps in as well.

"Thanks, both of you... Then let's start immediately. Can you take those tools inside?"

Kagura-san gives instruction while staggering on her feet. When she says "inside", she probably means this additional railroad vehicle which looks like a boxcar and a building at the same time.

As I try to bring the tools inside, Sharon takes the luggage before I can react and enters the additional vehicle behind Kurato. I have been beaten. Oh well.

Then, I'll ask the most of thing that has made me curious at once.

"Kagura-san. What is that?"

That's right.

To begin with, what are those things?

No, I know that it is an additional railroad vehicle, but I do not know why it's here.

"That? It's my new home though?"

"Eh? Home?"

Kagura-san's answer was a bit unexpected, I've accidentally let out a voice without thinking.

Eh? House? Kagura-san's? What does she mean?

"Nn? Haru-kun doesn't know?"

Eeh? I thought Rithina-sama has told you about it"

Fumu.

It seems Rithina has been doing something.

It seems she is aiming for something else, in addition to not telling me why Kagura-san has come here either.

By the way, even Kagura-san calls Rithina using the "sama" honorific. Aside from that, it seems like a good idea to ask what Rithina has been thinking about a bit later.

After Sharon who has put the luggage inside comes back, I leave the helping to her and head to Rithina.

Rithina and Mina were still in middle of doing the laundry.

Since they have been defeated by Laurier during the race, they have to take on the duty of washing her clothes. Tsk.

I've been busy with sleeping and cleaning which was my punishment for the past two weeks, so I've to make sure to take their place next time.

"Rithina-sama, Can I take your time for a moment? Mina. Sorry about this, but I will be borrowing Rithina-sama for a moment"

When I call out to them, the 2 girls notice me.
After I get Mina consent, Rithina follows me to my room.

"What is wrong... Ah"

Rithina seems to understand the reason why I've called her. She has a good

sense.

Though it's good, she had no choice here.

"That. Can you explain to me what that is?"

I ask Rithina while pointing at the Kurato and Kagura to our backs.

"Etto... You see..."

Although I thought she would gloss it over, Rithina easily explained everything to me.

Long-story short, according to Rithina, she is baiting Kagura-san.

When I asked what she was baiting her with, it turned out to be the advantages Kagura-san would have when I become the territory's feudal lord of the Millis Kingdom.

She had been persisting in talking Kagura-san into having her invited as a craftsman to her territory since some time ago, and in case I would be reluctant, that dialogue would've been finished by then. That's sort of thing. It seems it's about treating the other party as a future king.

But in the end, it didn't come to that since I've easily accepted Rithina's proposal, so there was no more need to hide it any longer.

What's with this situation.

Does she think if she supplies me with a girl, I'll thoughtlessly accept her proposal?

... I think I would though.

I cannot deny it at all. How weird.

I am so simple. Hehe.

Wait, it's about me easily accepting any agreement.

I had certainly planned to talk to Kagura-san about whether I could get her to come with us as well, but with the result being determined already, it can be said that I was saved the trouble of doing it.

However, the thing that I do not like is that on top of the discussion not being known to me beforehand, Rithina has been advancing it at her own discretion without my permission.

Although I like how she spreads her buttocks, that's the physical aspect, which is not related to how sore I feel now emotionally. Though I also feel that it's too late to change it now.

Although I feel that "the result this time is all according to Rithina anticipations!" the conclusion is reached based on the merits and demerits decided by me.

I guess I don't like being skillfully used that much.

"Please don't make any strange dealings behind my back, and consult me first next time... Okay!"

As revenge, I pull Rithina's cheeks and knead them.

"Munyu... Hiya... Fuyaruiyokun... so... sowwy!"

Pu.

This is more interesting than I thought.

Although we have a completely intimate relationship, it's still enjoyable to do this to the third princess of a whole country.

Also, her cheeks are so soft.

After enjoying Rithina's cheek for awhile, I release my hands.

"Please be more honest and talk to me beforehand. It made me feel bad when things went I knew that I was cleverly being used"

"Uuu... I'm sorry... I understand"

Occasionally I need to show my dignity by dropping the usual honorifics.

If it's the usual Rithina, she would easily sway the matter whenever I said something to her. But this time she said apologized obediently. It seems she was unexpectedly affected by difference in my tone of voice

Rithina is like this.

When I remember her "queen mode" from the last night, and then compare it with her downhearted expression right now, there is a wide difference.

The truth is I was a little bit anxious about which one is the real Rithina. Perhaps, the image I had of her since the first time we met was Rithina as a queen, and her true nature is different from that.

Well, whatever. Rithina is Rithina, with all her expressions.
As I was thinking about such things, Rithina joined her arm and lifted her abundant chest.

"If you want to punish me, you can do as much as you like with them"

Eh? What did she say?

Punishment? What does she mean by doing anything to them?

I'm always doing whatever I like to Rithina's breasts.

But, to knead them, why is that when she calls it punishment it looks more erotic to rub them, I wonder?

Ooh. This is a mystery. The world is surely very complex.

Alright, as the former hero, I'll work hard.

Wait, wait a second.

That reminds me, I'm being carried away because of being persuaded by ero stuff.

Also, am I seriously full of sexual excitement? Even if I'm telling that to myself, it sounds so cruel

But... But, it's the libido which overflows from the depth of my body.

This is the nature of a man. Should I do it, or should I not?

Even so, if I go with the flow, my dignity...

No, however, what would I gain should I refuse it here?

Should I...

Mou, thinking about it is so annoying.

If there are breasts that need to be punished in front of me, it's good to punish them.

Simple? That's me.

Umu. The world is simple. Or rather, am I the simple one?

I have decided, I take Rithina's arm.

What should I do?

There is Kagura-san nearby, and doing it outside is not good.

It means, should we do it inside Kurato?
Kagura-san is working on the rear side, but since Kurato is the vehicle of the Royal Family, the soundproofing should be perfect.

If we close the soundproofing windows, even if screams are raised inside, they won't be heard from the outside.

Un. Yes, that's good.

As I'm about to take Rithina and enter Kurato, Mina is standing on our sideway before I was aware of her.

With eyes full of expectations, there is a collar in her hands.

"I heard something about punishment"

Do you hear it?

As expected of the cat-eared girl. Her ears are good.

Mina-chan. You sure like collar and punishment stuff.
I think it's very good.

Fu. Fufufu.

A hero will answer any expectations placed on him.
I will show you the power of Former Hero.

.... And then, I take Rithina and Mina, I'm going to make sure they receive plenty of punishment.

=====

My, my waist is in pain...
As I expected, I'll go to sleep without doing anything tonight.

The the day has gradually passed, and the sky has begun to turn red

As I left Sharon behind after telling I would help Kagura-san, I was looked at with cold eyes when I returned.

"I'm sorry"

Chapter 104: Former Hero - Looks back on his journey

Two months have passed.

We've stayed in Angel for half of a month, earning money by helping Sharon with her work, and we've saved some of it.

Though I say that we've saved money, the amount can only be considered pocket money.

There was also the matter with Kagura-san that happened due to her discussion with Rithina before. Kagura-san easily moved out of her workshop which was also her rented house, and secluded herself in the workshop/home extending from behind Kurato.

When I asked her "Are you alright with deciding on this so quickly?", her answer was "Starting a business in a new town is not bad".

In addition, she also grumbled things like "The people here don't understand the benefits of clocks".

Her shop appears to have little to no business.

However, even if her shop is questionable, she can be called an excellent weaponsmith. Despite that, does she think that she'll be fine after leaving town and migrating to another country?

For a technician to be scouted, I feel that it might cause a problem for us...

Though I was worried, Rithina said "I have planned for this in advance".

I am bit anxious about what she discussed and with whom but since it's Rithina who said it, it should be alright.

It's true that I don't want to stick my nose into those kinds of things. I have also given plenty of instructions to Rithina during the punishment time that she has to talk to me so the discussion can move forward with my power.

Therefore, since Rithina has decided not to speak to me about it, I'm thinking that the matter only stayed on the level of them talking about it.

As for Kagura-san, she is being herself. It seems like she isn't mostly concerned about migrating.

Moreover, there was also the condition that I would show her my wristwatch if she participated in the race. While looking at it with glittering eyes, she seized it and went away.

I'm just showing it to you but it doesn't mean I'll give it to you, okay?

Don't break it and make sure to return it safely. Okay?

In addition, she also took away several items that I had brought from Earth.

As for these items, they are not the type which were necessary to bring in particular. Although I say that I don't care about them, it doesn't mean I'm not concerned about them so I considered whether it's reckless to give them to someone.

However, when she drew her big breasts close and said "Please? Can I see them?", I just couldn't say no to her.

With the recent events and a few others, Kagura-san and Celes ended up staying often in the workshop together.

I don't know if it's thanks to that, but Celes, who was previously working on the smartphone, managed to obtain good results in powering the smartphone with magic.

There is a huge conversion device stuck to it and the size has become around that of a handycam, but she said that it will fully charge the smartphone during a single night by using magic in the surrounding area.

In a way, she has completed an object that exceeded the technology from Earth.

Honestly, I was surprised because I could never imagine that she would succeed.

"Onii-i-san! I did it! I have made it!", said Celes when she came to report to me in high spirits.

It might have been my first time to see Celes in such high spirits.

The usual Celes is always reserved and well-behaved, so I can only say "Amazing" at that time while looking at her shining face.

And then I verified it by filming a movie with the smartphone while calling it a "performance inspection".

The target was obviously Celes.

My ambition which I thought had disappeared like a dream but now I got her to make a home video.

Though I got her to make it, I have a feeling that I more or less tricked her.

While she was dumbfounded, I took a video of Celes, who doesn't understand the function of recording, without her permission.

It's not "more or less", I've tricked her completely.

Oh well. However, it's better than I thought.

Even though it's fun with just watching, there's worth in seeing her reaction when I will show Cecil this movie that I took.

While she seems interested in the video recording function, it looks like a "shame play" where one's silliness is being washed away.

Of course she probably won't go as far as to break the smartphone. On the other hand, in the current situation where she's too interested in the concept of video recording to just run away, Celes who was watched her recorded figure while she panics is really cute.

When it comes to Celis being my partner, it seems like I become really sadistic.

I kind of regret it now. Maybe I was a bit too cruel.

But I know.

One day, Celes will look back and watch this video by herself.

Moreover, only by herself...

Kukuku...

When I was thinking about it, I couldn't stop grinning.

As long as its capacity allows, I'll continue recording lots of videos.

Sharon is working hard during training as usual.

Not only during the morning practice but also in the afternoon. When we were traveling, she said that she would run as part of her training. I am concerned about how far this girl would go.

As a result, she now has the power to control the distribution of her magical power for long periods of time. It also seems that her stamina has increased as well.

She also continues to train her speed which was already fast to begin with. In addition, she has increased the duration of her temporary top speed. It's not like a big deal anymore when I fail to land a hit on her during the practice.

Before long, with the way she's going, she might start truthfully saying "That's just my afterimage".

Even for me, I cannot create an afterimage.

I do not know whether it's possible for people to do such things in reality with the speed a human can bring out.

The other day, I asked Sharon of her objective.

"Do you want to aim as the strongest in the world?" I asked her.

Then she answered, "I want to be able to stand next to Haruto".

It's not to defeat me but to stand next to me. That's very lovely of her.

However, her target is still me though.

Although you said it like that, I think that's bothersome to aim for me like one would aim at the strongest in the world.

Oh well, it looks like Sharon is having fun when she is training, so she will likely make it happen someday.

Tanya is becoming more bashful lately.

Is it because I completely overwhelmed her during the race? I'm not sure whether she would keep her promise of becoming my woman if she had lost to me before the race, but she is acting bashful.

No, rather than saying she has become more bashful, saying that she has embraced her own emotions is more appropriate.

So far, she stuck close to me under the pretext of absorbing magic. There were lots of times when I argued with Laurier about changing that position but recently, it seems that she's satisfied with just holding hands.

Her tone with which she usually said "Oi" or "Ha" has now changed to calling my name "Haruto" directly.

Recently, when she dared to raise her voice like a spoiled child saying "Nee Nee" to say something and then calling out to me with "Haruto Haruto" with a soothing voice.

It's so damn cute.

When I think about it, when she enlarges her body after consuming the magic power at night, she devotedly entwined her big breasts which are as big as Rithina's.

But because of that, I would like her to stop seeing Rithina as some strange rival and throwing a strange line such as "My breasts are bigger" into that fire.

Thanks to Rithina's and Tanya's breasts, the confrontation of whose breasts are bigger broke out. Sharon entered the war with saying "What's most important is that Haruto said that he prefers my size which fits completely in his hand". Celes insisted that her breasts were "Growing bigger recently" while appealing modestly. As for Mina, she absentmindedly said "The form matters". And Laurier, she didn't say anything unusual and seriously fell to the ground.

With me being who I am, after me saying an excessive line like "I have heard breasts are rubbed by man, it will make them grow bigger", I was ended up massaging the breasts of that female group throughout the whole day.

Hyaa, that was fun. I want to do it again.

Eh? The opinion and the conclusion does not match. Oh well, whatever.

By the way, Rithina won the size measurement against Tanya by 2cm.

Rithina has shown satisfied expression, does she feel relieved to have identity as the owner of the biggest breasts in the harem?

As for the things afterwards, it seems Laurier has been actively growing the size of her breasts recently.

Just the other day, she just went and asked Tanya about how to make the body grow by using magic with serious face. I was surprised at that time.

Usually, Laurier is so self-centered towards the whole world. It is terrifying that she becomes utterly desperate when it comes to the size of her breasts.

Therefore I've already said to her that:

"It is fine to have small breasts. It's no worse than having big breasts"

To that, Laurier answered "It's all good if it's a girl, right?" while feeling satisfied... which I'm not really sure about.

No, it's not that.

I just wanted to say to her that I like her the way she is.

It's not as if you are a girl, then it'll be alright.

Though I can't fully deny it.

The way I talk is extremely bad.

As it can't be helped, I explained to her just how much I liked small breasts too, thus managing to deceive her.

Having done that much, Laurier should've been satisfied. I was satisfied too.

As for Mina, it's much more serious.

With the addition of the so-called "hikikomori" Kagura-san, her workload has been increased.

When I realized it, we have become a large family of 8 people.

The amount is amazing whenever I'm thinking about it.

Regarding the cooking, she said that "It's not a big deal to increase the portion for one person", but I still think it's tough on her.

Regarding place to secure the ingredients, the space has been increased because the workshop was added to Kurato, so it seems that there is room on the contrary to my expectations.

However, this doesn't look like the same applies for washing and laundry.

The person herself said that there is no problem, but I still think that it's not good to leave it be.

Although we've implemented a "helper" styled system before, I proposed for the implementation the full cleaning duty styled system instead of it just being a "helper" styled. I've also proposed to put some days during which Mina doesn't have to do work at all.

And then Mina asked "Does that mean that I am no longer needed?" with teary eyes.

I got flustered.

As she had been living as a maid, I wonder if she has pride as a maid? It looked like she has accepted it like being made to quit her job by her master.

Although It was supposed to be a proposal of goodwill, there is no way but for me to reflect on my meddling with my sense as the earthling.

I quickly take back my previous remarks in hurry, while emphasising to Mina how she is necessary and she always helps us.

When I'm face to face with Mina who says "Hic.... Is it true?" with teary eyes, wouldn't it be natural for me to instinctively hug her closer?

When I tell her that I have no intentions to let her go for my whole life, Mina who is in my arms says "Yeah.... Thank you very much" with moistened eyes holding, yet another meaning as she turns a feverish look at me.

And then, our lips overlap with each other.

Umu.

I was slightly flustered a moment ago, but it's all's well that has ended well!
(ED Note: "All's well that ends well?")

As the result, the proposal for the duty system has been revoked.

We've settled it down by increasing the number of helpers from one person a day to two people.

But, the number of people might increase in the future.

That's why, I told Mina that she should take some time to talk to me and not to do anything unreasonable when she thinks that things become unmanageable alone.

Summer will end soon.

Although the lingering summer heat is still severe, but doesn't it seem like it has become colder? The sunshine has also increased.

Regarding the bandit extermination and the acquisition of the territory in the Millis Kingdom, I've requested the kingdom to make some preparations.

It shouldn't take such a long time. In the meantime, we are heading to the city as planned which holds the battle tournament to participate in it.

Even with the normal Kurato, it's impossible to cross the forests and mountains, and it has become even bigger now.

Therefore, we're moving through the highway, thus our movement takes more time.

However, we will likely be able to arrive one week before the tournament begins.

According to Rithina, if I gain fame at a battle tournament even though it's held in a foreign country, I'll have a good reputation when I become a lord.

Well, rather than an adventurer with some unknown origin rising in the world, a powerful person will have more persuasive power.

I was disqualified in the race of Angel, but since I am going to participate, I will win this time for sure.

I try to renew my determination while looking at the drying laundry of everyone.

"So Haruto is unconditionally drying up the underwear, isn't he? However, his smile is terrifying" (Sharon)

Sharon, who was hanging out the laundry together with me, watched me with scornful eyes.

"Before you're aware of it, it will dry up. It always happens like that" (Mina)

Mina continues her words.

N? Is that so? Isn't that not the case?

I didn't consider it as such at all.

But I'm just watching the laundry drying up though?

Is it just by chance?

Eh?

Is it... natural...?

It's definitely not just a coincidence. It's inevitability.

It is not?

"Pervert" (Sharon and Mina)

Sharon and Mina, both of their voices are resounding in the blue sky.

Chapter 105: Former Hero - Tickled on his inside

Our destination is within an arm's reach.

We will arrive there sometime between tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

Bite.

"It hurts!? Oi stupid, so you are the fellow who loves biting?" (Haruto)

"Fufun? Why are you spouting nonsense in the middle of battle?" (Laurier)

Kuh.

This girl, she is trying to talk her way out with sound-like arguments.

During the usual morning practice of grappling techniques, I've paired up against Laurier. Although I've pinned her down on the ground from behind, she, who can't defeat me in terms of power, ended up biting onto my arm.

(TL note: Sorta like a piggyback position)

Gnawing.

Oi, stop it. It hurts. It really hurts, you know.

Since she has two sharp canine-like teeth, it's really painful when I get bitten by those.

However, I won't yield to such means!

I strengthen the defensive ability of my arm with magic.

As I endure her bite attack, I counterattack by biting her neck instead.

"Hau? Nunu... I won't lose!" (Laurier)

I cannot afford to remove her long hair, so I bite them together.

I don't know why but I've heard that girls like to give their hair special treatment.

"Be an adult and accept your defeat" (Haruto)

"Fu..n! ... Nnn?! Nuu... D-don't lick my ear~...." (Laurier)

I've judged that the match won't be decided with just biting each other so I push through Laurier's hair with my face and start licking her small ears from

behind.

Since Laurier has no other choice but to bite onto my arm in her current position, I can do something like this.

Fuhaha!

See, what can you do?

Isn't the power of your bite slowly becomes weaker?

This movement is good on Celes and Laurier because they are not from the human race and have ears as one of their numerous weak points.

Tanya and Mina have them too.

Although it's a weak point, it's also an erogenous zone.

Anyway, to make Laurier surrender, I'll use all of my knowledge that I possess.

I move my face to lick the ear on the other side.

And of course, I also crawl my tongue on her nape during that.

Her hair thrashes around and her face looks like it's enduring an itch.

"Ah... Ku... Nn~.....!" (Laurier)

Because of the flurry of my assaults, Laurier's fighting spirit is waning.

As proof, the power with which she bit my arm earlier gradually becomes weaker and it's only play-biting now where she has it in her mouth.

My victory is near.

However, in order for Laurier to try and resist while squirming around, her hips are wriggling around, under my abdomen.

Umu. Don't become energetic now.

"....." (Sharon)

Sharon, who was watching us, has understood that this is a battle of life and death between me and Laurier. That was what her expression was saying.

The others, who were watching us as well, have started to disperse with the feeling like "Is the practice today over?"

"Celes-chan. Aah (...) can you take it?" (Sharon)

"Yes. It's alright, I think. Etto... You just need to press this... And this..." (Celes)

"Wa! It came out. Amazing! It's so mysterious!" (Sharon)

Just a while ago, Sharon who was observing us attentively, seems to have decided that practice is already over and started to review.

In the other day, we succeeded in creating magic to charge the smartphone. Celes has slowly begun to understand its functions and now she starts to look at today's practice from start to finish.

Rithina goes off to help Mina. As for Tanya, she says "I want to do it too", and then she clings to me and bites the nape of my neck.

Ku. Stop it, you feral child
Your teeth are sharp as well.

"Haahaaa.... I, I understand. Haruto, I surrender. Therefore, stop, stop blowing into my ear... N.. Nnn.... Can't.. Anymore..." (Laurier)

Laurier gives up earlier than I thought.

This fellow, hasn't she become more sensitive lately?

Oh well. It's probably a good thing.

I won.

Fuhaha!

I release Laurier from my pinning technique and pull off Tanya from the back of my neck with my other hand.

"Tanya, today is your day to help, right? Rithina has already went, so you should go too" (Haruto)

"Ee" (Tanya)

I say that when I pull off Tanya.

Tanya puffs her cheeks and raises a voice of protest.

Kuh. So cute.

No, I can't be deceived.

She will end up becoming spoiled if she shows a cute face like that. (TL note: This means like one of those pouting faces)

This is where I need to be steadfast.

I keep my line of sight on Tanya and watch her intently.

"Uuu~... I understand. Then~, later~!" (Tanya)

Tanya breaks line of sight from me and obediently runs to help Mina.

That's good. As expected from the dere mode.

As I see Tanya off, I suddenly notice that I'm still patting Laurier's head who is still laying down on the ground.

Uwaa, my neck and left arm are covered with saliva from Tanya and Laurier. In the other hand, Laurier's neck and ear become sticky with my saliva.

...Although it's still morning, but let's construct the bath.
Even if it's me, I don't want to spend a day with saliva sticking on me.
Laurier probably has the same thought.

Speaking of bath, it's possible to get an opportunity taking a bath together with Kagura-san along the way.

Although the towel is an absolute defense, we will be entering it together.

Fuhehe.

It's a problem since I'm not sure whether it's because she has a crude personality or it's because of her favourable impression of me. (ED note: Also not sure here. Any suggestions would be welcome.)

Well, Kagura-san is also a girl.
I'm sure she will come out even if she is a hikikomori and enters the bath.

Or she might just like the bath.

Anyway, Kagura-san will surely come if I make a bath.

For the hikikomori Kagura-san, let's make the bath in the daytime so that we can use it when the sun is still up. I decided it. Let's do it.

After all, I'll be able to see everything clearly during the day... What?

"....Kun"

Nn?

When I was looking forward to make the bath, I heard a very soft voice from somewhere.

"Haru-kun. Come here"

When I listen carefully, it's apparently Kagura-san who is calling for me.

When I look around, Kagura-san is showing a bit of her face from the workplace and is beckoning towards her.

She seems like she doesn't want to go out that bad. This is bad.

Oh well.

I'll be sure to drag her to the outside later with the pretext of a bath.

That's all.

"What is it?" (Haruto)

I stand up and walk to Kagura-san's place.

"This..." (Kagura)

Kagura-san is showing only half of her face from the doorway of her workshop and passes me a single black board.

The heck, are you a vampire or something...?

"? What is this?" (Haruto)

I received the black board and took a look at it. But I still don't understand what it is at all.

This is... a sword, isn't it?

The part of the handgrip is similar but it's too thin for a sword. If it's a rapier, it's thinner but it doesn't seem to be a rapier as well. Besides, the length is shorter than the short sword that I often use.

It's thicker than a rapier. It's longer than dagger. However, it's thinner and shorter than a short sword. It's like an unfinished plate of it.

And more than anything, like I've just expressed earlier, there is a blade in it.

From the beginning, this doesn't seem like a weapon. Is it another surprise

item?

"You see, that's the core of the sword that Haru-kun requested" (Kagura)

The core of a sword?

This is not a surprise item but a part of the sword?

Certainly, I had requested Kagura-san to make me a new sword.

It was planned that I would give her the money from my part-time job as a deposit before the race and paid the rest from the prize money. But since I was disqualified, the payment would be from the prize money of the martial arts competition.

"...Hee. So this is the core?" (Haruto)

Although I don't understand how to make a weapon, I think that I have seen a Japanese sword in the olden times being forged from a board of iron plate.

So this is the same method then?

... While I'm grateful that she has shown me the core of the sword that she managed to create, but for what reason did she give it to me?

When I send Kagura-san a glance, Kagura-san answers while yawning sleepily.

"Faa~ Nn~.... Put your magic into it a little" (Kagura)

"Magic? Etto... Okay" (Haruto)

After I said that, I try pouring magic into the board in my hand.

Then...

Ha... Hawawawa?!

I am unable to see what is happening; my heart became noisy.

When I pour magic power into that black board, a faint line of light extends from the grip to the surface of the board, and it begins to shine and sparkle.

Uha, this is super cool!

Eh? What is this? Amazing! Uwa, amazing!

My tension rises, very unbecoming of my age.

Well, this can't be helped.

The line of light runs through the blackboard and starts to shine.

So cool!

With my magic, the board becomes dangerous.

It stimulates the mind of the second grade junior high-schooler sleeping within me.

At this moment, I am deprived of the phenomenon that is happening in front of me right now.

"Ooh... It even shines all the way to the tip too... After consider the feeling I saw during the race, I have raised the density quite a lot, but it seems it is still not enough at all..." (Kagura)

Compared with me who is in high-spirits, I saw Kagura-san was looking at the board with a quiet expression.

Her eyes, which seemed to be sleepy, are firmly opened as she fixes her eyes to observe it thoroughly.

"Etto... What do you mean?" (Haruto)

After I calm down a bit, I ask Kagura-san.

"Nn? Ah... You see, back in the old days, I used to design the core of weapons.

Well, to put it simply, I made it so that it has something like a technique that efficiently absorbs the user's magical power in it.

If you train enough, you can pour magic power into weapons but the materials won't be able to handle it. However, it doesn't work with Haru-kun's magic" (Kagura)

Hee.

I don't understand it.

In short, is it something like a secret technique?

This line which is shining because of my magic power, is this kind of secret technique?

Now that I think about it, there is something like this on Celes' left hand, isn't

it?

Fumu... I see.

When we dropped by Kagura-san's shop for the first time, was this the reason why she showed the weapons which could take in more magic power?

Fumu fumu.

"Fufu... I'm tired making the sword, but this is quite worthwhile to make."
(Kagura)

When I try to understand the matter, Kagura-san seems to have collected a few ideas.

"Nn, let's try a few more techniques. I'll make a guy who can receive everything that Haru-kun has" (Kagura)

After she said so, Kagura-san takes the board from my hand and returns back to the workshop.

To receive everything I have...
That's kinda lewd...

No, I know it's about my magical power.
But, if you can really do such things, it will be amazing.
Even the legendary sacred treasure that I once had was not able to match me.

If you can achieve an efficient control of magic, it will be in the same class as "The Sword of God's' Destruction" Ragnarok Blade.

I have remembered this feeling after a long time... for the first time in a long time, I remembered the joy that I can become stronger.

Chapter 106: Former Hero - Reunites

Grande the Royal Capital of the Erize Kingdom and Odysseus, the competitive combat town

Centered on the royal castle of the Kingdom of Erize, the city of Grande spread out as the Royal Capital and there, the city of Odysseus was formed next to it.

The residences of the common citizens and nobles were located in Grande while a big coliseum, various guilds and shops were consolidated together in Odysseus.

Those who were proud of their skills gathered from various places to Odysseus where contests of strength were popular. (ED note: Decided that contests of strength would work in this sentence.)

I heard that everyday, they compete in skill against each other in the Colosseum, located at the center.

Although the town was given a name even though it was next to another one, Odysseus did well to manage the tourist spots independently.

Would it be bad to say that it was a place where ruffians to gather in this kingdom?

In reality, there was a checkpoint to the Royal Capital Grande, so they were unable to enter easily.

=====

"Ha. This is amazing." (Haruto)

When I looked up at the Colosseum in the center of Odysseus, I raised my voice in admiration.

I wonder if the height of this huge round building is around 20m.

When I was a grade-schooler, didn't I see the Colosseum in a textbook somewhere? I guess it was that kind of feeling.

The purpose was still the same even in a different world. The shape of the

building looked the same too.

"This is pretty much the only place in all the surrounding countries with an arena this big." (Rithina)

When I was looking up at the Colosseum in awe, Rithina informed me of this from my side.

Rithina seems to have come here before.

This is the Royal Capital from the neighbouring kingdom. Did you come here to socialize too?

We arrived at the town when the day was starting to set so we postponed the registration and Rithina's greeting round to the guild for tomorrow.

Therefore, we stuck together and moved as a group like usual.

Everybody looked up at the huge building in front of me as much as they pleased; it's like a light sightseeing tour.

"It's amazing." (Haruto)

"Even outside this competition, I heard they hold various events everyday." (Rithina)

"That's amazing." (Haruto)

Although I heard Rithina's explanation, when I wanted to express my impression, I could only say "amazing".

I wanted to cry towards my lack of vocabulary.

Well, I could only say "amazing" when I saw something amazing.

Yup, amazing.

"Hou, Haruto! This place has specialty delicacies, right!? Let's go taste them now!" (Laurier)

Laurier, who hadn't understood my emotions right now, pulled my hand tightly.

Although my strong emotion towards a building that had a history was discarded, she had a point.

During our trip, Mina skillfully made the dishes everyone was thinking about. To think she was able to manage that with only preserved ingredients. However it's important to eat and taste the local and specialty foods on our trip.

I was unable to have this pleasure in Andalusia because there were no girls in my party.

It's probably because of this reason that whenever I ate the local speciality foods, I actually felt that I had come to a new town.

"Alright. Then let's go eat." (Haruto)

"Yay!" (Laurier)

When I decided to go, Laurier was innocently delighted.

Are you really that happy? Hahaha, what a big eater.

"Then, should we go search for the hotel for the time being?" (Haruto)

After I said that, we moved towards the hotel.

In most cases, the dining hall that was part of the hotel or the nearby vicinity usually offered local specialties to travelers. At least from my experience.

Apart from them, there were also famous, hidden shops unique to local residents, but I don't know where those places are.

Laurier, who usually wandered around town whenever we stayed for a while, will eventually find them, and this time was no different.

"Sharon, come here." (Haruto)

"Ah... yup!" (Sharon)

Before we started to move, I called out to Sharon and took her hand.

Sharon turned shy for a moment, however she timidly returned the grip of my hand.

After enjoying the softness of Sharon's hand, I entwined our fingers together so our hands were fastened like lovers.

Twining our fingers together, I wonder why it felt so pleasant. What a

mystery!

Ah... But, it also felt pleasant having our feet entangled.

Having it placed between breasts and the sensation when a tongue is licking somewhere.

The entirety of a girl's body felt pleasant. Definitely!

I forgot when I started it, but when I go with several of them, I always connect our hands together with everyone as much as possible.

In the past, Laurier always clung to my back, but since such a thing might not be good for a girl who is a late-bloomer, I have decided that I will be more assertive from today onward.

Although the order had not been clearly decided, I'll try not to be biased as much as possible. I will make opportunities to take care of all of them equally.

I was a man who could pay attention.

Rub rub.

Good grief, it was not easy being surrounded by many girls.

Rub rub.

Ah... Sharon's hand, it's so pleasant.

Rub rub.

I don't know why but it's so great.

=====

The next morning.

Last night, we enjoyed the bed for the first time in a month.

Even though I had secretly recorded our sex activity with Celes but as expected, the real stuff is still much better.

It's not bad to enjoy it by myself though.

There were three big beds that were connected in the large room and having six girls asleep on the super huge bed was a masterpiece.

After one month, I could finally satisfy myself. No one has woken up yet.

Only Tanya has fallen off the edge of the bed because of her bad sleeping posture. As for the other girls, they are making cute breathing sounds within a hand's reach.

For the time being, I'll caress Mina's breast and tail which extended from her hips.

"Nn" (Mina)

Mina doesn't wake up, but she reacts lightly.

This was somewhat fun.

I had awakened to some kind of weird fetish.

By the way, Kagura-san was not staying at the hotel.

Since she doesn't have any business within this town, Kagura-san seems like she's not used to being here.

So she shut herself inside Kuratou.

At night, she created the base of my weapon and she went to sleep during the day.

I wonder why she was working at night?

Usually, people work during the day and sleep at night; that's what I thought but Kagura-san said she seems to make progress at night.

Sharon, Laurier, Tanya, and I were unable to understand the reason.

Rithina and Mina could somewhat understand it.

As for Celes, she understood it very well and she was appreciative of it.

Although I was worried because she had been left by herself, since the person herself said she was alright, I don't plan to say anything further.

Well, since we have parked Kuratou next to the garrison of the Knight Order, whose duty it was to guard the town, I don't need to worry about her being attacked by bad fellows.

To be honest, it was also convenient for me because with Kagura-san in there, I could fully focus on doing various things at night.

Additionally, to grow intimately closer with Kagura-san, I think that the situation where we could approach each other individually was better.

If she worked through the night and then I brought her refreshments or the like in the morning, I would be able to display my kindheartedness towards her tired self.

This will score high points and she will fall in love with me.

Yup, this is good.

Let's go with this plan in the future.

Even if the location was different, it'll just take a five-minute walk from here.

Knock knock...

When I was thinking about it, I spent my time caressing the girls' breasts and hips one by one. Suddenly, I heard a knocking sound on the door.

Ah? What?

It's still early in the morning...

It's almost 9AM.

Were we too enthusiastic last night?

No, that shouldn't be the case, I wonder who it is?

I don't have any idea which person would visit us. We just arrived yesterday.

Kagura-san?

No, she wouldn't.

There's no way a shut-in that had declared themselves that they will shut themselves in would leave of their own accord. How prejudiced.

"Who on earth obstructed me in my time of bliss?" (Haruto)

Although I made a complaint lightly, I couldn't just ignore this.

I put my clothes and trousers on and decided to respond.

Just in case, I borrowed Sharon's sword which leaned against a nearby wall.

Since you couldn't see the bed from the door, I didn't have to worry about

everyone being seen sleeping, even if I opened the door.

However, I didn't know what would happen so I'll block it with the curtain.

"Nnyaa... Haruto-sama?" (Mina)

When I was moving to the side, Mina seems to have woken up.

Tsk. It can't be helped.

"Someone seems to have come, so I'll respond to them for a moment."
(Haruto)

"Err... Okay." (Mina)

After I told that to Mina, I went to the door.

"Yeah yeah, who is it?" (Haruto)

When I said that, I opened the door a little.

I used Search, so I could confirm that there was only one person on the other side of the door.

There seems to be no such thing as a group of assassins waiting. That would be troublesome if it happened.

"Ah, thank you. It's been awhile."

When I opened the door, I didn't anticipate the words I've heard.

"...Eh? Isn't it Leon? Why you are here?" (Haruto)

When I opened the door to the corridor, the current hero Leon was standing there.

Chapter 107: Former Hero - Promises to meet with the Hero

"Yesterday, I saw all of you from the Coliseum. And so, I came here to look for you for a little while. Yesterday, the sun had already set so I thought I would give you a greeting today" (Leon)

Towards me who was still surprised at his sudden visit, Leon explained in detail.

Are you really happy to be able to meet again after a long time? This Leon who is laughing and talking is quite refreshing.

What a guy. How can he, while smiling pleasantly just like that, be so cool? Are we childhood friend who finally able meet up again after a long time? It made me choke up with emotions.

No, since he is a man, I won't be overwhelmed. I retract my remark.

Setting that aside, this fellow was in the coliseum yesterday. And it must be due to his integrity that he has come to visit me. Though I'm glad that he didn't come at night.

Ah no. If he really came last night, I, who wanted to remove my depression after a long journey, might have been reluctant to meet him and I would have definitely said "Shouldn't you go back soon?".

It seems that Leon's decision was correct. As expected from a Hero.

"Is that so? Etto, it's been awhile" (Haruto)

"Yes" (Leon)

Leon and I greeted each other and shook our hands at the entrance.

Although this is good... What should I do?

Leon is the hero in this world so I can't treat him coldly. I am a person with only a few acquaintances so a reunion after a long time like this makes me happy.

However, if I could invite him in with "I'm glad you came! Now now, let's enter and have a nice chat!", it would've been easy, but...
There are half-naked girls in the room right now. That's too much I guess?

"Are. Isn't it Hero Leon, isn't?" (Rithina)

As I was on my wit's end on what should I do, Rithina shows her face from the corner of the room and greets him.

Only her face and shoulder can be seen from the door.

"Isn't it Princess Rithina? It's been a long time." (Leon)

Seeing Rithina's face, Leon kneels down instantly and starts giving an exaggerated greeting.

Wait, wait.

We are still at the hotel's corridor.

Well, it's probably the correct way to act around a member of the Royal Family even though the location is not appropriate.

It seems I have been flirting with Rithina too much so my sense for that has kinda weakened.

"It seems that he saw us yesterday so he came to give greetings" (Haruto)

"Is that so?" (Rithina)

"Yes. Please forgive me for my delayed greeting. Since your group had just arrived at this town last night, I thought you might still be tired so I came to visit today" (Leon)

When I made a simple explanation, Leon followed up with more detail.

It was just a coincidence that we reunited in this town in the first place so it's hard to say that it's inexcusable for him to give his greetings late.

Nn? Something's bugging my mind. I wonder what it is.

Un...?

I don't understand but... Well, whatever.

"Your Highness Princess. With all due respect, why do you make a posture like that?" (Leon)

Ah.

Leon seems suspicious because Rithina didn't come out from the corner of the room.

That's actually obvious.

Although she is a princess.... No, it's because she is the Princess, such an interaction with someone who came to visit is bad, you see.

From the incident in the Geji Fortress, Leon should be aware that I and Rithina are in a good relationship.

However, while that may be true, Rithina can't go out because she is half-naked at the moment. Spreading it is disgraceful. What should I do?

"? Ah. Pl-please forgive me for my impoliteness. I came here by myself in a hurry so it's fine to leave this matter aside. If it's possible, would you mind having lunch together? I would like to greet everyone else too at that time"
(Leon)

Leon seems to have realized something and panicked a little because his speech is stuttering.

Hou.

Did you notice it?

You seem to have grown up, Leon.

Although he is dense and always followed by Yunikram, a Hero is still a Hero because of various things.

...

Is it that due to his experience that he has become able to notice it?

Tsk.

No, this is actually good too.

I am an impatient guy.

"Lunch? I understand. Let's have lunch together" (Haruto)

"Thank you. There is a popular restaurant that serves delicious food on the opposite side of this hotel. I'll prepare a reservation for us, is that good?" (Leon)

When I accept the invitation for the lunch, Leon, who is still kneeling in the hotel corridor, offers a suggestion.

The restaurant that has delicious food, eh?
Last night, we ate in the dining room of this hotel so it's alright.

"Please." (Haruto)

"Yes. Then, let's meet again around 12 o'clock" (Leon)

After Leon said that, he left.

"Fuu... I was surprised. I never wouldn't have thought that Leon would... come..." (Haruto)

I see Leon off and close the door. As I entered the room, I was at a loss for words for a moment because of the spectacle before me.

It's not actually a big deal.
But everyone was still half-naked.

I think I was speaking with Leon for 5 minutes but how much they can prepare themselves in that extent?

Fumu. I see.
Neither Laurier nor Tanya are able to wake up even though Sharon and Mina call out to them.
Celes is still wearing only her shirt.
Rithina is... Why are you wearing my jacket?

Since Rithina is always wearing light clothes when she is in town, did she hastily wear something nearby to see our visitor?

Nn...

The spectacle of a girl wearing my clothes... There is something coming.

The size is not suitable without a doubt; it's like she is drowning in it... But it might be good.

I got downhearted because I had to see an ikemen face after waking up so my spirit is gradually rising right now.

"Haruto-kun. This might be a good chance." (Rithina)

When I was still in a wicked delusion, Rithina comes approaching me while still wearing my clothes.

Chance?

"About what?" (Haruto)

"Hero Leon is in this town. Kagura-san is here too" (Rithina)

Kagura-san? Nn...? What do you mean?

.... Ah I see.

"How about we get Kagura-san to look at it; Leon's holy sword?" (Haruto)

"Yes. If Haruto-kun said it, I think he would surely show it." (Rithina)

Now that I think about it, I had received a request from Rithina to examine Leon and his Holy Sword.

I completely forgot about it. I'm sorry.

However, she is right. Certainly.

In the past, during the time I examined it in the country, I had used documents and others things but as one would expect, I couldn't bring up a topic like directly borrowing the holy sword. If I'm not wrong, that's how it was.

I had borrowed it for a moment back then but since I am not weaponsmith, I could only understand that "This Holy Sword has an amazing amount of magic power".

Kagura-san seems to be a genius weaponsmith so she might learn something if she sees it.

"I see. Then I will be sure to go with the flow during our talk later." (Haruto)

"I'll leave it in your hand... Nn." (Rithina)

While we're still talking, I unconsciously reached out and grabbed Rithina's breast.

No, sorry, I'm lying.

I did it intentionally. That's obvious.

Neither the Hero nor Holy Sword is important right now.

When a girl is wearing my jacket to cover her naked body, showing her breast cleavage, and approaching me while only wearing panties on their lower-half, obviously I'll be reaching out with my hand.

To begin with, it's Leon's fault that he has interrupted my enjoyment in the morning.

As the vehicle begins to run, it usually won't be so easy to stop it.

All the more if it's a runaway train.

I snuck in my left arm and grabbed Rithina's breast. It's very soft and elastic as my fingers sink in.

The volume doesn't fit in my palm. So outrageous.

"Nnn... Ah, nn... Mou, Haruto-kun~" (Rithina)

While I massaged her breast, Rithina complained from her mouth but I didn't see any sort of rejection in her voice or facial expression.

When Rithina slowly got in the mood, she tries to take off my jacket.

It would be unthinkable if she takes it off.

I place my right hand on Rithina's waist and embrace her in order to obstruct her undressing.

Rithina seemed to be surprised for a moment as she stopped taking off her clothes. Did she consent immediately? Good guess.

In exchange, her delicate hand slips inside my shirt and she starts caressing me.

Kuh. I can't endure it anymore.

Seriously, is there anyone who could try and endure this?

I strongly embrace Rithina and kiss her lips.

When I perform a deep kiss, Rithina firmly responds.

After I get plenty of it and feel satisfied, I let go her lips.

"Pua... Ha-Haruto-kun, you're worked up, aren't you?" (Rithina)

Rithina, whose face is flushed, asks me.

Is that so?

Did she mean that I was always the same?

Don't tell me.

It's because Rithina wearing my jacket so it made me excited?

No, that's most likely the reason.

Let me be honest with myself.

Yes, even when my outfits make them look like small men, my desire doesn't stop.

From now on, let's not only buy cosplay clothes for everyone but let's also buy clothes for me too.

And then, let's have everyone wear them too.

Can't that be said to be like costume play, too?

I glanced at the surrounding.

Before I noticed it, Laurier and Tanya have woken up and everyone was staring at me and Rithina..

Oh no, it's so embarrassing. No, it isn't.

Although they give off different meanings from their gazes, I ignore them.

The clock displays 9:30 in the morning.

Meeting with Leon to have lunch should've been set at 12 o'clock.

If we go to Kagura-san and wake her up, we will need around 30 minutes to explain the circumstances. Plenty of time.

It means we must leave from here at 11.30.

It's roughly two hours?

Do we have spare time for two hours?

I see. It can't be helped then.

There is only two hours, right?

I hold Rithina and dive back into the dream paradise.

Chapter 108: Former Hero - Witnesses Romcom

Yo, Pops. What's up?

Just kidding.

At the arranged time with Leon, I'm entering the restaurant located across from our hotel while thinking about random things by myself.

Since the place is quite popular, there are many guests inside the restaurant. It's clearly full. It seems like they're really flourishing.

"Welcome. I am sorry, customer. Right now, we're fully booked so you will need to wait until there are vacant seats."

The clerk, who noticed us, rushed over in a hurry with light footsteps and greeted us.

The clerk's way of speaking is fairly long.

As we have seen already, it's really packed.

"Etto, you see, I think there was a reservation made... By Leon... Did he come here? I am Amagi Haruto" (Haruto)

For the time being, after checking the surroundings and with no sign of Leon's group in sight, I try asking the clerk.

Still, if Leon hadn't made a reservation in this restaurant, it'll be really embarrassing.

In the worst case, I plan to impose on Leon a suitable compensation.

"Ah! You are Amagi-sama, right? Yes, we have been told about you. They're waiting for you in the private room on the second floor."

Thank god. Leon and his group really came and made a reservation here. Sorry Leon. I had my doubts in you.

However, the clerk seems exhausted by the way she's talking. It doesn't matter to me though.

"Well then, I'll guide you. Please follow me"

As we are guided by the clerk, she leads us towards the stairs inside the

restaurant.

On the way, we pass by the other guests who were waiting for vacant seats.

Fufun.

I suppose it does feel somewhat good.

After you guys wait while being hungry for the vacant seats which you don't know when they will become available, you will then need to wait until the food that you've ordered arrives.

On the other hand, we are being guided to the seats immediately after we arrive.

And since Leon group had arrived early, I think they must have ordered some dishes already.

This is probably the result of a personal request. Hahaha.

What a superiority complex. (Referring to the feeling of superiority)
I'm such a small man.

Is this how the people with this mentality think?

"This is the room."

While I'm still lost in my delusions, we have arrived at the private room.

The clerk readily opened the grand door with a "gacha" sound.
The clerk still has a long way to go. If it was Mina, I'm sure she wouldn't have made any sound.

And then we enter the private room.
There are 4 people inside the room: Leon, Yunikram, Aura, and Caron.

Uwaa, it's been a while.

"We have been waiting. Go, please take your seat" (Leon)

After giving a greeting in a hurry and being urged by Leon, we move to sit down at our seats.

I wonder how we should sit. (ED note: Referring to seating arrangement)

The seat in the innermost part seems to be vacant. Is it the seat of honor?
Even if I don't understand it well, I guess it should be okay if Rithina sits there.
And then, the seat next to her will be me? Is that fine?

Un... I wish I could trivially ask Rithina beforehand what to do in such cases.

... Can we sit in any order?

In our party, we don't have any hierarchical relationship or differences in social status.

While I am still thinking about it, everyone moves quickly to sit without caring about the seat order. Nu.

"Haruto-kun" (Rithina)

Rithina called out to me. She is not sitting on the seat of honor, but on the one next to it.

Eh? Why didn't you sit on the seat of honor? Is there something wrong with my memory? No, it's most likely that the laws of earth and the other world are different. (TL Note: Person who has a high position usually sits in the seat of honor)

Although I don't understand it well, but I guess I can go sit on the place where Rithina motioned me to.

In the end, I am the one who sits on the seat of honor. Leon sits down on the opposite side.

"Let me say it again: it's been a long time since we met, everyone." (Leon)

"Yeah, it has been long time." (Haruto)

After all of our members sit on their respective seats, Leon and I greet each other as representatives.

This signaled the start as everyone began to exchange greetings among themselves.

Sharon, Laurier, Rithina, and Mina have been their acquaintances so they said their greetings.

As for Celes, Tanya, and Kagura, it's their first meeting so I introduce them.

Celes, who knows about the title of Hero feels tense. Meanwhile, Tanya and Kagura seem not especially interested in Hero.

After everyone is done exchanging pleasantries, we start to eat the large dish

that has been ordered by Leon while having a pleasant conversation; all while we order the dishes we want to eat and wait until it comes.

...Eh?

I wonder why. I'm curious about something.

This is the same uncomfortable feeling as when Leon visited our hotel room before.

... What is this? Why am I somehow becoming anxious?

"What's wrong?" (Rithina)

When I'm still having this uncomfortable feeling, Rithina asked me from the side.

Oops, my bad. Was I showing a serious face?

"Etto... No, it's nothing" (Haruto)

It's a reunion after a long time.

I'll put aside the feeling of discomfort for now.

.... Let's try consulting about this with Rithina at night.

After that, our ordered dishes arrive and we began to talk about our parties' recent adventures while we're eating lunch.

It seems that after we left the Royal Capital, Leon's group went towards the large forest in the south.

In that place, they fought against one of the four Heavenly Generals of Demon King Army and defeated it.

However, it was narrow victory. Thus, for the sake improvement, they wanted to come to Odysseus to participate in the tournament this time, where every strong people gathered from various places.

One of the Demon King Army's Heavenly Generals; they just fought against a big name. Amazing.

In the big forest, was there such a fellow?

"Laurier. You... No, never mind" (Haruto)

"What is it?" (Laurier)

"No, it's nothing really. Sorry" (Haruto)

"?" (Laurier)

Even if she knows, I doubt she will remember this guy. Yes. Even I have learned my lesson.

Afterwards, we're talking about the progress of our travels.

"A golem that can nullify magic. I heard about this story when we returned to the Royal Capital" (Leon)

It seems that Leon's group has also heard about that Golem.

"Is there something that strikes as odd to you about it?" (Haruto)

"I'm sorry but there's nothing in particular... It's just that there was one among the Demon King's Heavenly Generals, who is completely immune against magical attacks. Although I'm not sure if they are related..." (Leon)

Hee, is there a such fellow? That sounds troublesome.

"If we were fighting against someone like that, our present selves wouldn't be able to win, perhaps...I don't know the reason but it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that we narrowly escaped against that kind of enemy."
(Leon)

The Heavenly General who's immune to magic attacks seems to have given him a bitter experience

Leon, who talked about the situation at that time, seemed to despair after realizing his lack of strength.

Uwaa... The mood of this place has become really heavy now.

More like: after destroying one of the Heavenly Generals, is he saying that they cannot lay either a hand or a leg on another similar Heavenly General? Despite being Heavenly Kings, it's looks like there is a difference between them. That fellow might've been the weakest among the Heavenly Generals.

.... But this mood, I wonder why?

I wish I can say something to him but what would be a good thing to say?

"Leon-sama! We are still alive! Even for this battle tournament, everyone has

became stronger, so let's defeat that demon next time!" (Caroin)

"Caroin... Yes. You're right" (Leon)

Before I say something, Caroin encourages Leon in a full voice.

Good job. I was surprised that Caroin being able to make a quick response like that.

Did you want to encourage the depressed Leon that much?

"She is right. I'll show you that my weapon skills have become stronger too. I believe..... I can stand in line beside Leon Therefore, cheer up." (Aura)

"Aura... Thank you" (Leon)

Aura suddenly talked and encouraged Leon even more.

"Y-Yes! My magic too... I'll show you that I can surely support Leon without fail!" (Caroin)

Caroin recalled something and gave an additional reply.

"Yeah, Leon and I.... We will be fighting with our all so please take care of us" (Aura)

"E, ee...! Yeah I guess?" (Leon)

Ha!?

What's with this?

Is there something like this?

Is it youth?

Is this what they call a love comedy?

There are two beautiful girls who give their best for the Hero?

Tsk.

"E... Etto, thank you both of you! There is no need for me to brood over it anymore, right?"

Toward the sudden words from Aura and Caroin, Leon put an end to his story while showing an embarrassed expression.

I see.

I've managed to learn a lot of things.

This guy must have had a hard time as well.

Despite that, it should be fine to him to obtain both of them.
That would be the case if it was me. I'm doing so already.

Well, it's because Leon is an earnest guy for better or for worse.
Since he has an obligation as a Hero, he can't afford to be distracted by something like love affairs until the Demon King is defeated! That's what he's surely thinking.

In a way, Aura and Caroin might have hard time as well.

Tsk.

Putting Leon's intentions aside, being in the Hero's party seems extremely fun. I'm jealous.

I also wanted to have such troubles during my time as one.

Well, I had my cup full when I was a Hero back then. If I was in Leon's position, I might've been unable to keep someone close and make light of that person.

"Haruto-sama. The method of defeating the Golem which can nullify magical attacks, can you teach it to us?" (Yunikram)

Yunikram, who might be the one who has the most awkward position in Hero's party, changed the topic of the conversation.

This guy must've had the hardest time.

"Yeah! By all means, please!" (Leon)

After Yunikram throws a lifeboat, Leon immediately gets on it. It is amusing.
Leon should be older than me.

"Etto, even if you ask me to teach you.... You just raise your level and hit it with physical attacks. Something like that..." (Haruto)

As a matter of fact, I've defeated one with just brute force so I can't explain it clearly.

".... I see. If that fellow is able to nullify magical attacks, the simplest and most effective plan might be to knock it down with overwhelming physical attacks"

(Leon)

Leon seems satisfied with my answer. Is it really good?
Since the person in question seems content, it's good I guess?

"As expected, a physical attack..." (ED Note: Not sure who this is)

However, Aura seems to have made a small triumphant pose while Caroin threw me a resentful gaze.

Eh? Wait a minute.
Although it's good to change the mood, it will be troublesome if I'm the target now.

"T-to raise our physical attack power, it might be effective by having Caroin's support magic be applied on Leon!" (Haruto)

"Yeah it is! Yes! I'll work hard!" (Caroin)

Following my opinion, Caroin's expression changed into a gentle and cheerful one.

Fuu.

Oi Leon.
Why am I the one doing a follow-up for those girls?
You should do it, you know. They are the girls who have fallen in love with you.

"Power, technique, magic... We need to raise everything higher...!"

My silent pressure doesn't seem to reach Leon at all.
Damn this guy, I'll remember this.

Chapter 109: Former Hero - Goes Practice

The next morning.

Kaan, the sound of wooden swords striking against each other echoing in the blue sky.

During our conversations, the tournament will be starting in less than a week and it's been decided that we will be practicing with the Hero party like when we were in the Royal Capital.

I will also participate in the tournament but why should I train with the other participants?

On Leon's part, I kinda understand why he doesn't want to lose against the four heavenly kings after the tournament.

Moreover, I got the rewards for joining the training with Leon so it's a good thing.

"Yo... to" (Haruto)

I lightly intercepted Leon's wooden sword which he used all of his might towards me and parried it to the side and during that chance, I land a good kick on him from the side.

"Gu..!" (Leon)

Since he was knocked off-balance with my kick, Leon falls down and rolls on the ground.

"Oioi, you put too much strength into it!" (Haruto)

Yesterday, I said that he might get a hit on the target if he used all of his strength but when he's thrusting it like that, it shows how he's stupidly honest.

"I-I'm sorry." (Leon)

Leon obediently apologizes and stands up. However, he has no composure. Is he being impatient and can't do anything about it?

I understand that Leon feels like he's running out of options but he doesn't

need to beat himself up over it.

"Even if the magic is ineffective and it's possible to hit using a physical attack, don't you think you can use magic in a different way?

For example... Let's see... This is a magic that I often to use. It's not like I say that you should imitate it..." (Haruto)

After I said this, I turn around, facing Leon.

Leon noticed that I want to do something and he tried to set up his wooden sword in his hand.

After I confirm his preparation, I began to chant.

"Fire Ball" (Haruto)

I shot the Fire Ball aiming, not at Leon, but at the ground between me and Leon.

Naturally, BAAAM! The ground exploded at the impact, obstructing the view.

Then, during the chance where it's hard to see, I use Restraint of Earth Bind without any aria.

Since Leon is falling back due the first explosion, I aimed my magic where he's landing.

While I activate the Restraint of Earth Bind, I went through the smoke caused by fire ball.

In the place which I couldn't see due to the smoke, there is the splendid appearance of Leon who was bound by my Earth Restraint.

Although the bindings did not completely restrain Leon, it's already good since I could obstruct his movement even for a little.

It's important to create a gap and strike a blow at the opening against the opponent in the match. It will determine victory and defeat.

I reduced the distance in one dash and thrust a wooden sword at Leon, who can neither dodge nor defend against it.

"Ka...ha" (Leon)

The Earth Restraint breaks because of my thrusting power into pieces and

Leon is lightly blown away.

That was splendid. Everything went as I planned.
The current Hero is too simple. He still has a long way to go.
I think it's better for Leon to remember some tricks, isn't it?

"I guess that's it. Caroin. I'll leave Leon to you"

"Y-yes! Leon-sama, are you alright?" (Caroin)

Did I use too much power earlier?

Leon crouched down while fainting in agony, so I asked Caroin to treat him.

It can't be helped if the opponent is a man. It might've ended up a bit too severe. It's because I am a man after all.

After that, I see Caroin who's running-up to Leon.

...Ouu.

Her breast shakes and jiggles.

Is it because Caroin is a younger sister? I didn't realize it because the outfits that she wore but she is really outrageous.

By the way, I didn't realize it in the Royal Capital back then, but there is a reason that I'm able to realize it this time.

The clothes.

When I decided to train the Hero party, the female members were obligated to wear special clothes that I have prepared only for training.

Frankly speaking, it's gym clothes: bloomers.

At the race in Angel, I came up with this idea after I saw everyone in swimsuits.

The elementary school that I went to had used shorts so I haven't seen any bloomers at all.

I haven't seen the real thing but my heart was attracted to them. It's really mysterious!

After that, on the way to this town, I asked Mina to create it and it just got

finished only a few days ago.

As I asked to make spare ones for everyone and for reserves, I was able to prepare the outfits for Aura and Caroin too.

I can say that my judgment to make spare outfits was really fortunate.

"Healing Light" (Caroin)

Caroin, who ran up to the downed Leon on the ground, kneels sideways while in bloomers and casts recovery magic.

.... That's good.

Even if there is an injured person among us, there are Mina and Celes who can use recovery magic. Honestly, I rarely get hurt.

It's good.

I want to show my injured hand to Caroin. I want her to gently heal it with her recovery magic.

"Haruto-sama, does this place hurt? I'll use recovery magic now." (Caroin)

"Even without recovery magic, if you grab my hand, the pain will subside."
(Haruto)

"If it can be healed with my hand, please tell me anytime." (Caroin)

"Thank you. Then, can you also heal my swollen lower part too..." (Haruto)

"Oh dear, it has swollen so much...! Is it alright?" (Caroin)

Rub rub

What the hell.

I am an idiot.

Well I guess I should try to receive an attack for once without avoiding it.

That is it. If that door will be opened again, I'll asked Laurier to step on me later. (ED note: You know what this means. :D)

....

.... I think it might be a good plan.

No no, I should not think of anything weird during practice.

I must endure it. I am a rational man.

After that, Leon who was healed by recovery magic, repeatedly tasted hell for several times with recovery in between.

That's too bad, Leon.

If you were from a battle-savvy race, you might be have been able to grow stronger today.

"Leon. Let's end here for today. Please think of a plan to land a blow on me tomorrow." (Haruto)

"Yes... I understand" (Leon)

Even if you say that you want to defeat the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King Army, there is no way to become dramatically strong as soon as possible. I'm also getting stronger too.

Although we have exchanged blows for an hour or so today, Leon failed to land a hit on me.

Is it vexing? Leon seems very depressed.

I thought of doing something about it but let's leave it to Caroin instead. It's Caroin's chance!

I am an adult so I can assist other people's love relationship.
Therefore, please forgive me with my wild delusions.

After that, I head towards Aura who was exchanging blows with Sharon on the side.

"Ah Shisou! These clothes; I can move considerably easier!" (Aura)

"It's simple and the design is suitable for the movement." (Sharon)

When I approached them, Sharon and Aura stopped their movement and talked to me.

Of course.

Those are gym clothes after all.



Red bloomers are suitable for the red-haired Sharon.
For the black-haired Aura, deep blue bloomers suited her well.
Blue-haired Laurier too, deep blue bloomers... Wait, aren't bloomers perfectly good for everyone?

No, but it's true.

The exposed thigh; it's really amazing.
Because the girls will be moving intensely, it'll become candy for my eyes.

Due to her intense movement while exchanging blows, the bloomer digs in lightly and I can take a peek at the line of Aura's underwear.

To fix it, Sharon thrust her forefinger to the bloomer and corrected the edge....

This is bad. I'm gazing at it.

I will never get tired of it even though I see it every evening. It's because this is her after all.

Nude and half-naked: can you feel their charms?

From there, I joined the sparring with the female group for a while.

It is different from with Leon earlier: this time I was full of motivation when my opponent is a girl.

When I was sparring with Aura, sure I might have touched and felt a few places but it was beyond my control.

This is just a grappling technique so it can't be helped. Such an excuse.

By the way, Leon and Yunikram didn't spar with the female groups. I will do it if it's between men. I'm a man after all. (TL note: MC is explaining the reason)

Un, I repeat it although I understand that. I'm such a small-hearted man.

But, I don't want everyone's skin being touched by other men except me. This also can't be helped too.

Lastly, I'll train Rithina about magic.

Although Rithina cannot use fire magic as usual but in exchange, her water magic is starting to get better.

Like usual, when she trains and shows me her water magic, Rithina suddenly talked in a small voice.

"Did anything change?" (Rithina)

Nn? Changed?

Eh, I see... I guess it's about Leon.

Last night, when I was studying language with Rithina, she consulted with me about her uneasy feeling that she felt in daytime.

As a result of the thinking of two people at that time, we have reached one conclusion.

The sense of uneasiness that I felt. It's about how Leon firmly understood our movement.

In the morning, when he came to the room, Leon said to Rithina.

"I just arrived last night." like that.

The day before, he said that he had seen us in front of the Coliseum so why

did he know that we just arrived?

If he really went on ahead of us on his own, it's very likely that he was able to investigate us.

When we had lunch, he had secured the seats for my new companions: Celes, Tanya and Kagura, to whom he should have met for the first time. Even though he only saw Rithina in the morning, he had secured the exact number of seats for everyone to sit properly.

However, there are many excuses he can use.

When he saw us in front of the Coliseum, he learned about our numbers because we're not spread apart.

When examining the hotel since the day I checked in, he knew our numbers as well.

It might be that Leon can also use the same magic like my Search.

There should be many possibilities if I raised my suspicion.

However, I can't confirm them with Leon directly.

"Today's feeling is like usual." (Rithina)

"I see." (Haruto)

When I answered her, Rithina only gave a short reply and she began to concentrate on practice magic again.

"What about the Holy Sword?" (Rithina)

When I thought about it, it seems that this is not the case.

"Th-that is also... I'll let you know when I see it later." (Haruto)

"Thank you." (Rithina)

.....

This time, for real, Rithina began to concentrate on the practice.

As for the Holy Sword, we will know about it soon or later.

But, how come Leon can understand our movement? For what purpose?

Who is his target?

Is it me?

I certainly come from an unknown origin; the same as Leon. However, for the Hero himself to investigate...

Or is it because I'm stronger than Leon so I need to be observed?

Or is it Laurier?

Honestly, that girl is most likely the cause.

She tried to kill Leon's group before.

He might be worried for leaving the Demonkins free like today.

However, I already said that I'll be responsible for it. I wonder if it was too hard for all serious Leon to observe us in silence and check our movement.

No, is it because a man of unknown origin, who is stronger than him, is harder to be trusted?

Un. That may be the case. I felt it was like that.

I cannot think of anything else other than this even after I checked the other possibilities.

Well, it's not like we did anything bad so far so why should I worry about it? It's better to be good, free-natured soul..

For the time being, I'll put the matter regarding Leon at the back of my head and I will spend my time preparing myself for the tournament.

Chapter 110: Former Hero - Facing the day of the Tournament

Approaching the preliminary day of the tournament.

In the morning, while we ate breakfast in our room at the hotel, I confirmed today's schedule.

"Then, the ones participating in the tournament will be me, Sharon and Tanya right? Laurier, are you really okay with not participating?" (Haruto)

According to what I've heard, there is no reception on the day of the tournament preliminaries so even though I'm late to confirm it, Laurier has an invitation to join the tournament.

If we try to negotiate with everything at our disposal, we might be able to convince them to expand the number of participants.

"Gununu... N...No, I won't go. I'll assist everyone quietly this time." (Laurier)

Laurier answers while stuffing bread into her mouth.

"I see." (Haruto)

To be honest, I'm glad that Laurier won't participate. It's not like I could not win against her but it would've been really troublesome.

By the way, for Laurier who had a hobby of sleeping and fighting, there is a reason why she gave up with the tournament.

The specialty food of this town is meat named Balal.

When I tried to taste it, it felt like beef.

I don't know if there are any cows on this world. It might be that this Balal is the same as cows. No, in that case, the name's gonna be similar to cows so this is probably a different living being.

Oh well, it doesn't really matter.

I have to say that Balal's grilled meat which we ate at the restaurant where

we were invited by Leon was very tasty. After all, meat is good.

Laurier seemed to like it very much since she ate a lot of that meat since then.

Not only that but it was to the extent where she also kept it as a secret so she could eat the meat by herself.

Moreover, that meat seems special as it's very hard to obtain in general.

Because of that, Rithina has received a special seat as part of the royal family of Millis Kingdom.

Furthermore, the special Balal meat was gonna be served for that seat. Laurier, who wants to eat the meat by any means, gave up on the tournament and decided to accompany Rithina.

It was either battle or meat. An intense conflict between instinct and gluttony occurred inside her.

Laurier, who had wrinkles on the middle of forehead and shows a troubled expression. It's probably the first time I have seen this kind appearance. No, it's definitely the first time.

Rather, it was the first time for Laurier after she was born to face something like now.

"Then, Laurier and Rithina-sama, along with Mina, will be on the noble guest's seats. Laurier. You can eat the meat but don't cause trouble for Rithina-sama by devouring it greedily" (Haruto)

Just in case, I gave her a warning.

"Nuu. I know the do's and don't's. You don't need to say it, Haruto. Right, Mina?" (Laurier)

"Yes. Laurier-sama's table manners have improved well." (Mina)

Laurier, who looks sullen for a moment, asks Mina for help and Mina responds.

Is that so?

Nn... Now that she mentioned it, her table manners had been better recently. I see... So Laurier has finally started acquiring the common sense?

"My bad then. Sorry." (Haruto)

"Fufun. It's good if you understand" (Laurier)

As a sign of of apology, I move one sausage from my plate to Laurier's mouth. Laurier, who saw it, immediately recovers and bites the presented sausage with "paku".

It's like a scene where I feed a tamed animal.

Table manners....?

I glance over to Mina.

Then, Mina looked away quickly.

It seems she still has a long way to go.

"Celes, you don't want to go to the special seats together with them? You can eat delicious food over there." (Haruto)

"That place makes me a bit nervous... So, I'll be watching with Kagura from the general seats" (Celes)

Lastly, I asked Celes.

She already said it before but it seems she will be watching with Kagura-san.

"Understood. Please take care of Kagura-san so she won't collapse all of sudden." (Haruto)

"Ahaha... Yes. Please leave it to me." (Celes)

When she heard what I said, Celes only lets out dry laugh.

Despite Kagura-san being a hikikomori, she suddenly started to go out and I don't know why.

It's like the other day when she was saying something incomprehensible like "I have overcome the light of sun" and joined our practice in the morning. However, she ended up going back in a little less than an hour.

It's really bad for my heart when I gazed at her occasionally and she, who was standing still, suddenly collapsed.

Well, since she was gonna watch the tournament, I guess it'll be alright.

After we confirmed our schedules, we finished breakfast.

"Etto... Since the start of the preliminaries is 9 o'clock... Should we go now?"

(Haruto)

Everyone has prepared themselves to go out.
If we go out now, we're likely arrive at 8.30.

First of all, let's go to Kagura-san before heading to Coliseum.

"Haruto-kun." (Rithina)

When I tried to go out of my room at hotel, Rithina suddenly called me to stop.

"Yes?" (Haruto)

"Today is the preliminariest so I won't be able to see you a lot. Therefore... Although I'm not worried but please do your best for the main event tomorrow." (Rithina)

"Chuu," Rithina kissed me after giving me words of encouragement.

Ooh... It's somewhat inspiring.

"Yes! I'll do my best!" (Haruto)

I answered energetically. My lower half of body becomes energetic too.
At this rate, I want to push her down roughly.

Nope nope, now is not good time.

When we're still in our own world, Laurier, who saw it, comes near.

"If it's Haruto, he'll surely win the tournament. W...Well, if you work hard, that's good." (Laurier)

When Laurier said that, she stands at a tiptoe in front of me.

This is...she also wants to kiss me, right?
Too bad, her height doesn't suffice.
However, it's so cute!

Chu.

I bend over and kiss Laurier.

When I stood up after enjoying the feeling of Laurier's soft lips, I saw the female camp from behind standing in line.

Ooh.

Does everyone want to give a kiss of encouragement too?

Uu, I'm on fire.

In times like these, I felt glad that I came to a different world.
I have tasted them every night but this time is different.

"Haruto-sama. May the fortunes of war be with you." (Mina)

Chu.

"Onisan! Please do your best" (Celes)

Chu.

"I'll return the favor from the race. But, do your best!" (Tanya)

Chu.

Mina seems really worried about me receiving an injury.
Though Celes made a shy expression for a moment.
In order for her to participate in the tournament, Tanya is in her adult form.
Although she declared war on me, but in the end she is still deredere.

"Etto, n...nn~" (Sharon)

The remaining one is Sharon but she doesn't plan to give me a kiss.

Since Sharon will be participating, I will be her enemy that needs to be defeated and the target that need to be surpassed so she seems conflicted whether to encourage me or not.

But, even so, she looked so troubled as she glanced over with the face that wants to kiss me.

This girl is really, really cute. My heart flutters just by watching her.

Alright. Just this once, I should lead her.

A result where only Sharon doesn't kiss me; it won't happen to me.

"Sharon. Let's do our best together." (Haruto)

"Haruto... Y,yes! Let's! Haruto too, please do your best!" (Sharon)

From the beginning, she has decided that she wanted to kiss me, so if I

support her, it will be easy.

I patted Sharon's head and kissed her.

Chu.

I got kisses of encouragement from six girls so my motivation is at max.

Uoo! I will do it!

"Haruto! I want you to pat my head too!" (Tanya)

Ha?

When I was determined for victory with renewed feelings, Tanya hugged me from behind.

In this position, the back of my neck was buried in Tanya's big breasts.

I want to be buried in breasts from the front.

I feel the really motivated to win the tournament!

I see.

It was only Sharon that I kissed while patting her head.

That's impolite of me.

Alright then. This time, let's do it again and pat everyone's head in order.

It's pleasant to pat a girl's head. Hehehe.

After patting everyone heads, while performing deep kisses too, my lower half is full of energy but with a willpower of iron, we went to pick-up Kagura-san.

After that, we all came to the Coliseum.

The time is 8.50.

We barely made it but since we're not late, it's alright.

It's an example that I need to be able to respond to events if they happen suddenly. Umu.

In the plaza in front of the Coliseum, there was a crowd of muscular daruma. Uwaa.... The spectacle kinda made me relaxed.

However, in this situation, I could see female figures here and there. Are they also participants?

If yes, I would like them to become my opponent by all means.

I won't do any lewd actions toward them if they become my opponents. I won't. Maybe. Just a little. It's inevitable, isn't? I'm sure it is.

W-well, anyway I'll be looking forward to it.

"Haruto-san. I'm glad, I thought you didn't come." (Leon)

When I noticed it, Hero Leon's group had come out from the side.

"Good morning, Leon. Aura, Caroin, Yunikram too" (Haruto)

"Good morning." (Leon's Group)

We exchanged greetings with Leon's group and conversed for a moment.

"What? Yunikram won't participate?" (Haruto)

"Yeah. I have something I have to do a little. So I'll be watching tomorrow's main event." (Yunikram)

The one who will participate from Leon's group seems to be two people: Leon and Aura.

Yunikram is, as usual, working from behind the scene. He is a really wiseman.

Leon, since there is a man in the dark like Yunikram, you can't forget about him when you receive glory under the sun.

For these kind of things, it is not necessary for me to say it but Leon might already know about it.

Even if he doesn't understand it, he is still fiery-spirited fellow.

Even if I were to leave it alone, I feel like I'm promoting a good friendship.

Unexpectedly, that's very likely.

Waa, a different wish is fulfilled.

If it's really so... it'll be the biggest tragedy for Aura and Caroin.

When it really does happen, please come to me by all means.

My harem will always welcome both of you.

"Haruto, what are you thinking?" (Sharon)

When I saw Aura and Caroin while grinning, Sharon lets out a murderous aura

from my side.

Oioi, Sharon-san. You will be battling in the tournament so you don't need to be that excited right now so relax.

"..." (Sharon)

"It's nothing. I'm sorry." (Haruto)

I can only let out a sigh of "relief" when I see Sharon's face but I was stared at with a cold gaze. I'm scared.

My back was also trembling after a long time.

Because of that, I have to apologize with all of my power..

"The door will slowly open. Well then everyone, please do your best on the tournament." (Rithina)

Rithina gave words of encouragement to all participants in the end.

And then Mina, Laurier, Caroin together with Yunikram, entered from the another entrance into the Coliseum.

Why is Yunikram entering from there? What does it mean? Oh well, whatever.

"Then, we should go too. Please do your best!"

Both Celes and Kagura walked towards general spectator entrance.

Kagura sent her thumbs-up towards me.

When I taught that to Kagura-san, she seemed to get into it and it became a response in the spur of the moment.

I also raised a thumbs up in response to Kagura-san.

Now only the participants remained.

"Alright. Then we should go too. Even if we fight against each other, don't hold back. Let's use our full power." (Haruto)

"Yes!" (Leon)

I said it at the end.

Although it might be alright for Leon, the tension went up after I said that.

And then we entered the participant entrance on the Coliseum.

The tournament starts.

Chapter 111: Former Hero - Battles in a preliminary match

"I am... Etto... No.69?" (Haruto)

After completing the reception/acceptance, I checked the preliminary match number.

The preliminary matches will be held on a small stage inside the Coliseum. The participants will fight several times in the stages and whoever wins, they will be able to participate tomorrow on the main stage.

The winners from the preliminary matches would be 12 people. In addition to the 4 best people from the previous competition, the maximum number of participant for the main stage is 16 people.

The competition format is a tournament
There are about 200 participants in this competition.
If you win 4 matches, you can participate in the main stage publicly.
To become the victor for this competition, you must win 8 matches in the total.
(TL note: 4 on preliminary matches and 4 on main stage matches)

This time, I have reflected from my past failure in the Angel's Race and read the rules properly.

Towards this former hero, there won't be any blunders because of the rules. Thank you everyone who have become my teacher. Especially Rithina, who introduced a new study method and a power-up item such as glasses, I'm very grateful for her.

Glasses are wonderful.

But still, the amount of middle-aged men is high. Moreover, because of their swelling muscles, it made the surroundings warm even though it's the cold season right now.

I could see girls here and there but their number less than 10%.

Compared to that, there are only three beautiful girls in my surroundings.

Fuhaha! Such differences.

Leon does not seem to be bothered about this.

"I don't know who will become my opponent or when it will be my turn."
(Sharon)

Sharon said so while looking around restlessly.

"Sharon. Even though the format is a tournament, participants for preliminary matches are chosen at random to reduce their numbers."

I've naturally explained it on Sharon.

Good grief, Sharon, you can be a handful.
You have to properly read the rules.
Properly, you hear me!

"Ah, I see. So that's it. And even though everyone were accepted at the same time, our numbers are different."

Sharon ignored my useless explanation and checked everyone's numbers.

Sharon's number is 96.
Tanya's number is 182.
Leon's number is 89.
Aura's number is 66.

Well, the numbers have almost no meaning anyway.

This battle tournament is different from Angel's Race; I just need to be the winner.

It's simple and easy to understand for me.
Of course, I will need to avoid foul play.

...Well then, when is my first match?
And who is my opponent?

If possible, that tall nee-san over there with lots of exposed skin will do nicely.
Or the light-armored braid-chan standing next to that martial artist will do as well.
Or the one next to... Huh, what's happening on there?

There is a high ratio of girls there.

In our place there are three girls but there are 7 of them over there.

"Thank you for participating in the competition today. Well then, we would like to start the Odyssees battle tournament preliminary matches at once"

As I was observing the group, a voice could be heard. The preliminary matches seem like they're about to start.

"Then, number 35 and number 152, come to the claw stage. Number 103 and 47, to the shield stage. Number 91~..."

A person in charge reads everyone's numbers.

Does it mean the people who being called out will fight against each other ?

The claw and the shield stage: each stage has a name.

There is no special meaning for those stages, it's just the name. It's not like the claw stage is shaped after one or a shield would appear on another.

There are only eight small stages and each of them are separated so it seems it will take some time until my number being called.

"Haruto! Let's go see it!" (Tanya)

Although I have been thinking of warming up while waiting for my turn, Tanya invited me to see the matches.

Nn~... What should I do?

Actually, I'm not interested in watching the matches... But oh well, I guess I might able to see my future opponent matches if luck is on my side so I guess I should go.

There is no rule that forbids us to see the other participants' match.

"Alright alright. I will go so stop pulling my hand so much. What about everyone? Do you all want to go together?" (Haruto)

In her adult body, Tanya innocently pulled my hand like a kid hurriedly while I asked everyone.

"Ah. I will go too." (Sharon)

"I, I want to wait here and concentrate." (Leon)

"I will be also waiting for the match here." (Aura)

Sharon agreed to go together.

And both Leon and Aura seems like they want to wait for the match here.

"I see. Then I don't know when we will be called and I'm not sure whether we will meet up but let's do our best in the match. If we end up as opponents, let's not hesitate to use our full power at that time." (Haruto)

"Yes. Without holding back. With all of our power." (Leon)

Leon answered me.

The girls silently nod to each other.

With this, we are enemies from hereon.

And then we separated with Leon's group and acted on our own.

====

When I was watching the second match, Tanya was called.

At long last, just when I was thinking to watch Tanya's match both my number and Sharon were called.

"Ooh, it's my turn now? Then from here on, we will separated. Do your best." (Haruto)

"Yes! Haruto, do your best! Tanya-chan too!" (Sharon)

"I will defeat both Haruto and Sharon!" (Tanya)

After we send encouragement to each other, we separate.

From here, we're rivals.

And then, I headed to the stage.

Let's see, Sword stage... Sword stage...

It's here.

Since it's sword stage, there is a symbol of sword drawn so it's easy to notice.

"Number 69, Amagi Haruto"

I introduced myself and passed my number plate to the umpire who was standing at the sides of stage.

"Yes. I have confirmed it. Please wait on-stage."

After being told by the umpire who was done confirming my number and name, I went to the stage.

My opponent hasn't arrived yet.

When I looked around the stage from below, there are about 30 people in the arena.

There are people who have their heads hanging down, looking exhausted in the corner too.

Are they the defeated participants? My condolences for them.

When I was holding my hands to calm my mind, I heard a shrill voice.

When I turned toward the voice, there was a group of girls I saw earlier at the hall.

Oh.

No way. Seriously, my first opponent is a girl from that group?
Lucky.

Which one is it? Which one?

"Number 13, Balam Orda"

Just when the expectations in my heart was growing, there was an evil-eyed, handsome guy that came out from the girl group and introduced himself .

Eh? Who is this guy?

Why there is a handsome guy appearing from the girl group?

"Yes. I have confirmed it. Then, please enter the stage"

When I was standing still, the handsome guy goes up the stage.

"Balam-sama! Do your best!"

"Leave it to me. I will show a splendid victory worthy of me, the fifth rank of the last tournament!" (Balam)

"Kyaa! Balam-sama!"

Etto...

What with this guy?

Eh, is that so?

In the other words, in the tournament holy grounds, he made the girls to cheer for him and make him proud.

I won't permit this!

.... Even though we are similar, there is a time for everything.

Well, leaving that aside, did he just say that he ranked fifth in the last tournament?

If it's true, then he must be quite powerful.

From his appearance, he is a flashy, handsome guy. However, strength cannot be measured with the external appearance or muscles.

The most important thing is the amount of magical power and its control.

I've got a tough opponent in my first match.

I have to focus my mind on this match.

"Then, the third preliminary match of the sword stage starts.

Large-scale magic which can reach outside the stage is prohibited.

Moreover, if you kill your opponent, you will get disqualified although it's not a crime.

Please be aware of this."

The umpire explain the rules.

Yeah, yeah. I understand them already.

In addition, giving up or going outside the stage will count as a loss.

The umpire will count to three if someone steps out the stage.

If you lose consciousness, naturally, the umpire will stop the match.

I read the rules perfectly last night. The appeal of being capable to read and write the characters now feels good.

By the way, the usage of weapons and armors is allowed.

We can participate with our favorite equipment.

My weapon is...

"Then, start!"

The match started quickly.

The handsome guy pulled out a long and slender one-handed sword, a rapier, which hung around his waist... Etto, what's this guy name was, again?

"Balam-sama! The appearance of you pulling your sword is so wonderful!"

Ah.. Yes yes, that Balam guy takes a stance toward me.

"Such a shabby man, finish him! Balam-sama!"

"Please easily hurt that man with unfashionable clothes that looks like he just came from the rural area!"

Damn.

That yellow fellow is annoying.

Also, did you say my clothes were unfashionable?
You've done it. I won't permit that.

This clothes were chosen for me by Celes during our date.
It's cool!

Balam made a posture with which he wanted to thrust out his rapier at me while slowly getting closer.

I was slightly angered by the yellow fellow from Balam's harem but I concentrated on my mind on meeting my enemy.

"You had bad luck that your first opponent is me!"

Balam said while moving quickly to reduce the distance and then he lunged with a strong piercing attack.

Indeed, this is certainly fast.

For the adventurers from around here, this speed might have been unstoppable.

No wonder he was able to reach rank 5 in the last tournament.

However, no matter how fast he is, I can easily predict such straightforward thrusts. I was waiting for him to do that.

I grabbed the tip of the rapier with my left hand tightly.

Although I could've avoided it, I decided to grip it at that moment.

"Wh... what...?!"

Balam shows a surprised expression.

He surely didn't expect that I'd grip it with my bare hand.

I've strengthened my hand with magic so I can grip the blade without any injury.

"Gu..."

Balam tried to pull his sword with force but even though he had used all of his power, the sword didn't budge as I continued holding the blade.

Fuhaha!

How is it? Are you scared?

To that action that he couldn't comprehend, Balam's face showed fluster and fear.

.... I am such a mean person.

No, it would've been fine if they only insulted me but the crime for mocking these clothes is heavy.

Although it's not Balam who said that.

Well, he is the person in charge so I can give the proper retribution to him.

I yanked the Balam's rapier that I gripped.

Naturally, Balam who didn't let go his weapon had his posture destroyed and followed the movement.

You should've let go.

After thinking about it, I land a punch on Balam face who started to fall down.

"Bufu"

Balam raised a pitiful voice, unable to defend against my punch, and received it on his face, then was blown off.

He rolled on the stage ground before finally crashing outside the stage.

"T-that's it!."

Since Balam dropped outside the stage, the umpire announced the match ended.

Fu.

I blow away the rank 5 of the previous tournament in a single hit.

This former hero, am I not overwhelming?

As expected from a former Hero, I fallen in love.

I gets off the stage while holding Balam's rapier in my hand.

I raised my right hand, showing a victory pose.

I, I am so cool!

Whisper.... Whisper... The other participants noisy look at me.

This is so pleasant!

I know that I must not show off my ability too much but this is a tournament, you know?

It's feels pleasant to receive compliments of how strong I am from the surroundings.

Balam's harem should run over to me quickly, saying "So cool! Embrace me!"

"Kyaa! Balam-sama face!"

"What with that guy! Such disgusting face!"

"He must be jealous of Balam's face so he aimed at his face on purpose!"

"When he get off the stage, he raised his right hand, there is no feeling of consideration to the defeated opponent either"

"Eh, somehow, I'm getting turned on!"

Guh.

There were no such things.

What they said is true. I can't object to them.

It's hard to bear.

Chapter 112: Former Hero - Saying something refreshing

"Fuhahaha! A small boy as my opponent, goha~?!"

My opponent in the second preliminary round was a 2m tall or so muscle Daruma.

The moment the match started, this muscle man was saying something, but I didn't care and attack his stomach.

I don't have any good memories about muscle daruma.
Therefore, I might have put a bit of extra power in my attack.

The muscle daruma crumbles down while holding his stomach and he is convulsing.

"That's the end!"

The umpire announced. It's my win.

With an instant kill right at the start, the other participants who were looking from the surroundings were noisy.

My first match is the fifth ranked in the last tournament, I think?
With me overwhelming that ikemen rascal with an evil look, the number of spectators has increased. Is it because they've caught on to that rumor?

Fearful glances are directed at me.

This is pleasant.
But it's regrettable that almost all glances are coming from men.

No. Each stage has spectator seats. Also the general public is watching.
Celes and Kagura should be among them.

Both of them, after watching my performance will surely... Huh?

The number is being called at random. Do they both know my number?
I wonder if they saw my match?

I look at the auditorium where normal people are watching the stage.

Un... There are quite a lot of people so I'm unable to see them.

There are four stages in the two venues for preliminary matches and there is a simple boundary between the stages so we cannot see the state of the other stages.

If the audience want to see the other stages, they have to move to the place where the stage is... Un, they probably didn't see my match.
My tension decreases.

No no no, it's too soon to give up.
Celes might surely be able to find me with the power of love.
The power of love!

Rithina, Mina, Laurier and Caroin were watching the Fist stage from the seats reserved for the most important guests. (TL Note: Reminder each stages being called by weapon name)

Since I don't have any match there, four for them won't be able to see me either.

Tsk.

I'll surely show off to them in the main tournament tomorrow, but what should I do while waiting for the next match?
My first and second matches ended-up as instant kills so I have free time before my next match.

Sharon, Tanya, and Aura; I wonder how are they doing?
As I had watched how the fifth-ranked in the last tournament ability, I'm sure all of them will make it in the tournament.

Alright, let's go look for those girls.
While I'm on it, Leon too.

I looked around, wandering randomly to the each stages.
I am unable to find my acquaintances in the four stages in the hall where I am.

Are all of them in the other hall?
The other hall located in the next building, however it's kinda sad to be left out.

When I walked towards the neighboring hall, the door of the building in

between opened.

"Oh Sharon." (Haruto)

"Ah, Haruto." (Sharon)

What came out is a face that I am familiar with: it was Sharon.

"Yo." (Haruto)

While I spoke to Sharon, I saw the door where Sharon came out from.
The plate hung on the door written... Etto... Aid... Room.

A-aid room?!

Now that I think about it, it was written that there would a place for first-aid stuff between the halls.

"What's wrong? Where did you get injured?" (Haruto)

I went over and checked Sharon's whole body in a panic.
For the time being, there seems to be no sign of injury...

"Ah, un. I just twisted my ankle when I fell down earlier. But I have requested to have healing magic applied on me so it's alright." (Sharon)

After Sharon said that, she shows her ankle and lightly turned it around.

But I felt that her vigorous voice was amiss.

When she fell...
And this appearance...
This is, by any chance...

"I, I see. I'm glad to hear that... Etto... So..." (Haruto)

"Thank you... Ehehe... I lost." (Sharon)

When I was about to try to confirm my guess about her situation, Sharon spoke to me.

As expected... Has she been defeated?

"I... see..." (Haruto)

"Yeah. In the 2nd round, my opponent was the Hero." (Sharon)

Leon, huh?

Ah... Un...

Sharon's growth is wonderful.

I think there won't be any mistake if I said she is an adventurer of the first class.

But she was unable to defeat Leon?

He surely has talent and, in addition, he has actual combat experience in the war against the Demon King army.

To tell you the truth, in the one-week practice, I have already sensed it that Sharon still hasn't reached that far yet.

"I didn't think I would be able to win but I thought that I should try and challenge him. But as expected from a Hero! I was able to fight well until halfway but gradually I was being overwhelmed." (Sharon)

Sharon continued talking.

However, it's too obvious she is far from her usual cheerful self.

As Sharon said, even though she knew she wouldn't win, being defeated is still leaving a bad taste.

As proof, although she was talking energetically, when she remembered it, tears began swelling in her eyes.

"Ah, so, sorry. I'm crying because I lost." (Sharon)

Sharon hurriedly said while wiping her tears, the tears that were shed will be hard to stop so easily.

"No, it's natural to cry after being defeated. Rather, it's weird if you can stay calm" (Haruto)

I also have experience too.

Just like Sharon at this time who went out to join the tournament. Although our situations are different, when I saw someone who I couldn't help with all of my power, I felt regret about my lack of strength.

At that time, I cried.

The old man from my companions said that it was fine to cry if I regret it so I cried.

I felt refreshed after I cried. It's like I could move afterwards compared to if I didn't cry.

Therefore, If Sharon wants to cry, it's fine to cry as it will make her feel refreshed.

Since I cannot explain it in words well, I showed it through my actions instead.

I took Sharon's hand and we went to the space between the aid room and the hall.

"Eh... Wait... Haruto?" (Sharon)

"During times like this, it's better to cry quickly and get refreshed." (Haruto)

I said it as softly as possible while I hold Sharon's hand and embraced her closely.

A "Silent Field" was created; it's to prevent the voice leaking to the outside.

"Crying to get refreshed..." (Sharon)

Sharon laid her face on my chest and muttered slowly.

"Umu." (Haruto)

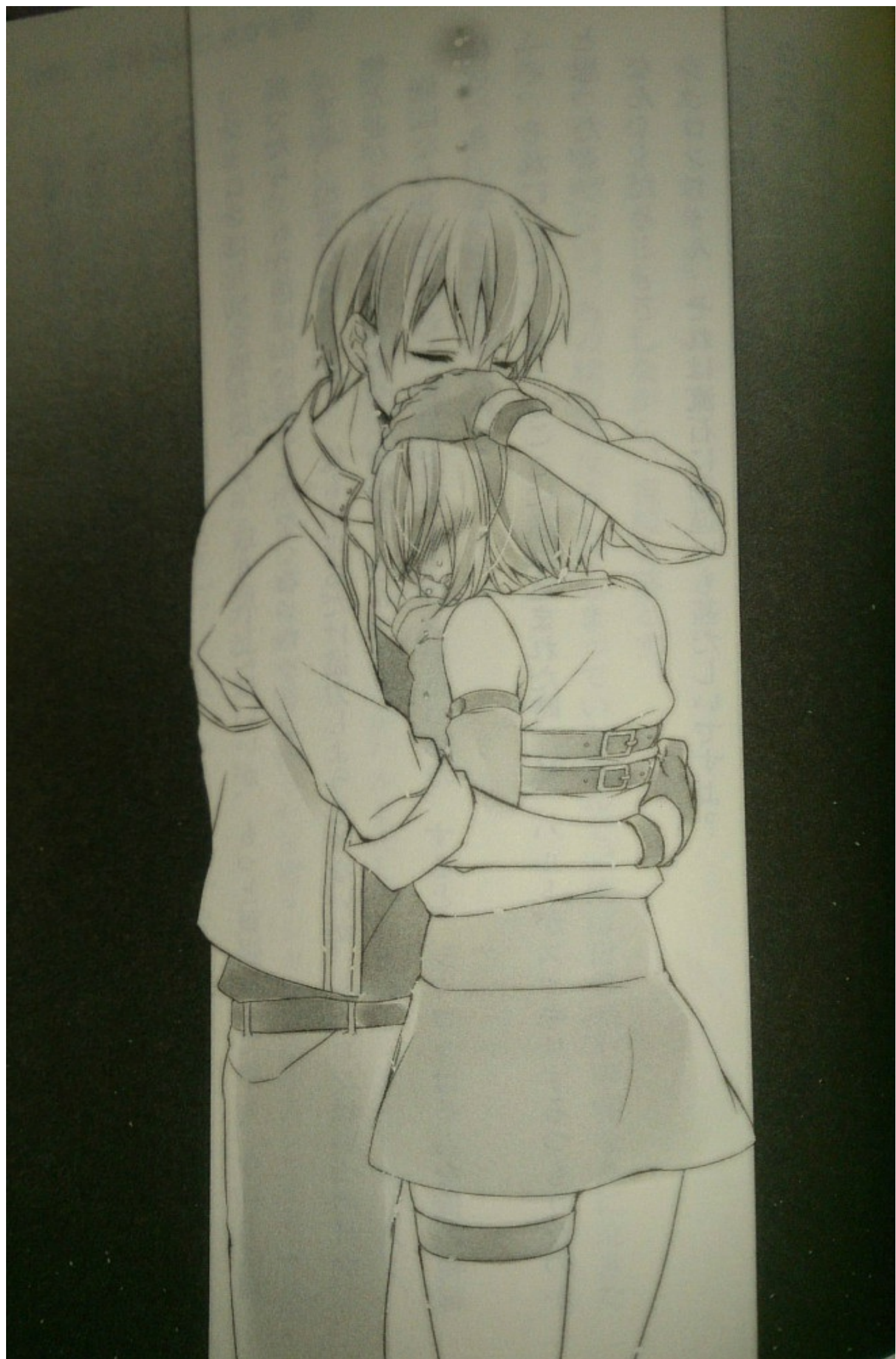
"Un... Yes. Then, just for a bit..." (Sharon)

After Sharon said that, she cried for a while.

Her sobbing voice wasn't loud enough to require the use of "Silent Field" by any means but it's better rather than her holding it in.

While Sharon cried, I embraced her closely and kept patting her head.

In the end, Sharon finished crying after a few minutes.



"Thank you. Un, I felt refreshed after crying!" (Sharon)

Sharon finished crying and took one step away from me, wiping her tears that remain on her cheeks.

This time, unlike before, I felt she has returned back to the normal Sharon.

"Yeah. Well, it can't be helped if it still makes you regret it forever. Therefore, you only have to become stronger." (Haruto)

"Yes! I, I will work harder!" (Sharon)

Sharon regained her cheerfulness back..

Though you said will be working harder but you have already worked hard. Do you plan on doing nothing else but shut yourself in the mountain from now on?

Whatever. Setting aside shutting herself in the mountain, shouldn't I help her as much as I can?

Sharon; she is a girl who is going to fight together with me side-by-side.

I watched Sharon with a warm and pleasant feeling.

Then, when Sharon noticed my gaze, she blushed.

"By, by the way, when I was taken here a little while ago, I, I thought Haruto was gonna refresh himself." (Sharon)

Wh...what...?

Sharon-chan. Don't you understand me that much?

Even I, when seeing a girl weep and shed tears, won't get excited and take her behind a bush. I'm not a low-life.

Not a bit. Only slightly. It may not be the feeling when a girl is crying at some microscopic level but it is too cruel that she thought that I would do such a thing in that kind situation.

"When you embraced me closely, it.... It was growing bigger...." (Sharon)

Wh... what...?

Sharon somehow become nervous while glancing down.

Good grief, I am so pitiful.

To think I'll get a reaction in that situation, I want to cry because of my own weakness.

"Th, this is impolite of me..."

I apologized to Sharon.

I got depressed a bit.

"U, uun! That's okay! Because, it's Haruto after all! Umm... when I was embraced tightly, I was so happy..." (Sharon)

Fidgetly and moving around, Sharon said that she was happy when I hug her tightly.

However, what did she think of me earlier?

"Etto... Umm, thank you, Haruto....Th, that... won't it affect the match when it's like that?"

Nn? What?

Sharon snuck a peek at the lower part of my body.

What does she mean by "like that"?

What does she mean by "affect"?

Ah, this?

Yes. It seems so.

Well, is it really good?

Toward a girl who just cried a little while ago?

However, since Sharon has said it, then it's okay I guess?

It's okay right? It's surely okay. Un, okay.

"Yes." (Haruto)

When I gave her an obedient answer, Sharon blushed further.

However, she take a step closer to my body and then squats down.

"Th, the magic to prevent leaking sounds, please use it perfectly, okay?" (Sharon)

"Yes." (Haruto)

You just need to cry when you want to cry.
And then you will feel refreshed, that's just I said earlier.

I cried because of my weaknesses and while feeling refreshed, I will be looking forward to my next match.

(TLC: god I laughed so much here.) (ED note: All's well that ends well)

Chapter 113: Former Hero - Restores the Spirit

"Haruto! Do your best!" (Sharon)

I'm heading to the stage for the 3rd round preliminary match and as usual....
No, Sharon looks more energetic this time around.

"Leave it to me." (Haruto)

I turn around and see Sharon's face.

With water magic, although it was cleaned thoroughly using Sharon's handkerchief, I did, on this lovely girl's face and mouth.....

Whoops, I should stop.

My wild kid who had been calmed down with great effort might reawaken.

"Then round 3, start!"

The referee's shout rung out and the 3rd round has begun.

The 3rd round opponent for me was a man with bulky muscle and a body one size greater than mine.

"Haaaaa!"

Quickly closing the gap, he attacks first to win.

However, since I'm being watched by a cute girl, it's his misfortune that he's up against me.

Like the 1st and 2nd round, I can defeat him in an instance but I want to show a good performance. This is a sad saga for boys.

The fighter fought fiercely by punching repeatedly.

Having advanced to the 3rd round doesn't always mean he's strong.

That's a lot of punches and each one is shrouded with a tinge of magic.

However, I avoided it all with paper thin distance, and while all of it has good angle, I managed to beat them all off.

" Kuh.....! "

All my attacks were completely warded off and didn't even hit? thought the fighter.

Right at that moment, I launched a kick from below.

And at the same time, I also threw a punch to the fighter's chest.

Though the fighter was blown away spectacularly, he didn't fall off the stage. It's because I deliberately chose to do so.

As the fighter was breathlessly crouching at the edge of the stage, firmly looking at the contender, I raised my left hand, palm facing up then bend my thumb inwardly.

Afterward, I bent the remaining four fingers quickly.

Uwa, how cool is that!

I've always wanted to do that.

"Gu....uoooo !"

The provoked fighter got up with a determined look on his face.

And so, just like that, he attempted to use his strongest attack.. But of course... I've also prepared a counter.

It wasn't such a flashy blow but my counter had hit his body with a loud thud, making the fighter crumble to the floor.

"This is it!"

I won.

Moreover, I didn't make a fool of myself, so it's a cool victory.

I leave the stage coolly and walked toward Sharon.

When I see Sharon's face, there is admiration or at least I thought so. Just according to the plan... !

"It's awesome, Haruto!... but why didn't you take him out on the first blow? Making a strange showy gesture too, isn't it like making fun of the other party?" (Sharon)

Ugh...

At first, it seemed that my good sides were shown but my vain and

exaggerated acts hit me from behind.

Ugugu..

That's a lot..

"We, well. I guess it was wrong of me." (Haruto)

I choose to reflect obediently.

"Un!" (Sharon)

Sharon looked at me, a smile bloomed on her face.

What's with that smile ?

What on earth has made you smile so much?

I feel that something is wrong but I choose not to pursue it.

Afterward, I participated in the fourth round, when the real challenge usually begins so to speak.

Once getting to this part, there is 3/23 chance of meeting acquaintances. That can end up badly, but my opponent is someone I know nothing about.

No, although I can't confirm whether those 3 managed to win three rounds or not, they should be doing just fine if no problems happened.

Afterall, according to Sharon's info, after round 4, the matches will be held on a bigger stage. Really a brilliant piece of work.

"Haruto! Awesome!" (Sharon)

Upon seeing me going down towards the stage, Sharon raised up a shout and jumped at me.

I catch her and place my hand on her waist.

"Thanks." (Haruto)

I thank Sharon as I hold her.

"Haruto!" (Tanya)

By the way, without me noticing, Tanya had suddenly arrived nearby. With Sharon on the other side, they both create a 'mugyu' sensation when they hug me.

Oh.. the feeling of these breasts.

"Haruto, you managed to qualify for the main event. As expected!" (Tanya)

The big Tanya says so and gently strokes my head.

Oi, stop it. Can't you see that I'm not a kid ?

"Well, so. What about Tanya?" (Haruto)

I suppress the urge to brush off Tanya's hand from my hair, and ask.

If I brush her hand away, Tanya will part from me and I'll lose those feeling of her body pressing to mine.

"I'm still not done yet. One more match to go." (Tanya)

Without me asking and seemingly got tired of it, Tanya let go of my head. Inevitably, she also stopped pushing her body against me.

Che.

"I see. Do your best!" (Haruto)

"Yup! It will be an easy win!" (Tanya)

Hey, that's the flag of someone who's about to be defeated.

Besides, you don't know yet but if you say that while you are in front of Sharon who did not qualify, Sharon will feel dejected

"Tanya is also awesome! Do your best from now on! As for me, I already got defeated." (Sharon)

"Eeee?! Sharon was defeated!? By whom? " (Tanya)

"Eetoo, to the Hero." (Sharon)

"A — ? To that guy? Yosh, alright. He's going to get taken down by this me!" (Tanya)

" I, I don't feel bothered losing to him but....but, alright, I'll have to trouble you!" (Sharon)

"Aye! I'll take him down for sure! "(Tanya)

Was it unnecessary to feel worry ?

Sharon doesn't seem to be that sad either as she talked with Tanya happily.

I guess, I was just getting carried away by my feelings.

But at such times, wild children like Tanya, who is simplistic and optimistic, are easy to understand.

"Wait wait. Sharon's enmity; should I be the one to bear it, right? I'll be the one who will perfectly defeat Leon." (Haruto)

While I'm at it, I tried to play along with Tanya.

"Eeee ? ! Wait a minute, Haruto too?" (Tanya)

"Hahaha! Then when the time comes, we'll see who gets to avenge Sharon and defeat that guy!" (Haruto)

When I'm acting cozy with the two girls, I felt a strange aura.

I thought that something was wrong but the other participants who were around were sending gazes laced with the "What's with that guy, just go die" curse.

Fu..

Such a vengeful gaze, it's not effective on this former hero.
I don't care. Send more.

Wahaha.

===

Afterward, Tanya also managed to pass the preliminaries safely.
Leon and Aura seemed to come up on top without any problem as well.

After the preliminary round is over and when all members meet, Sharon and Leon were slightly awkward to each other for a while but quickly got over it and started talking like usual.

There is no worry about trouble arising as well.

On our way back, after separating with Leon's group, Sharon and I, along with Tanya, headed back to our hotel.

I also thought about joining Celes and Rithina but we abandoned the idea since it was too crowded.

At first, once preliminary was over, we planned to go back so there would be no problem.

"Oh, yes, I heard it from Laurier before but" (Tanya)

While the three of us were walking on the main street extending from the Coliseum, I heard Tanya saying that she remembered something.

Heard it from Laurier? What is it ?

"After fighting, does Haruto go into heat?" (Tanya)

Ha?

To that unexpected question by Tanya, I freeze momentarily.

"Ah. That. I also heard it too " (Sharon)

Eh?

Sharon also seems to have heard a similar thing.

Te, no no, wait a second.

That Laurier, I don't get what you are trying to... do.

By the way, it looks like there was such a thing before

I remember!

After the fight against the golem dragon.

No no, isn't this just misunderstanding on Laurier's part ?

Anyways.

Those people, just how much misinformation had spread? I really have to put a stop to it. Don't they know it's embarrassing?

"Ah. After the second round, a short time ago also...." (Sharon)

Sharon began to remember, making me nervous.

No no no, wait. Wait a minute.

That one, it's not really like that.

"Yep. I can smell it." (Tanya)

Eee?!

Towards Tanya's remark, both I and Sharon froze.

She can smell it?

For real?

I unconsciously try to sniff myself.

As expected, I can't....

The sense of smell of beastmen is scary.

Normally, don't you know that Tanya and Mina can sometimes be ill-tempered?

For example, in the middle of the road, sneaking about with everyone's underwear secretly and doing things by one person.

Hi.

Sharon is Sharon, she's trying to hide the blushing on her face..

"I know how you feel. Because it's been a while since my last real battle, my body is getting hot." (Tanya)

Tanya says so as she pats my shoulder.

Is, is that so ?

"So, how is Haruto feeling now?" (Tanya)

Tanya whispered in my ear.

Hi.

This girl, with the body which strangely matured and became adult-like, along with her sexy voice.

Me?

How do I feel, you ask ?

What the hell, are you inviting me in?

Fine!

I, while looking at Tanya, laugh.

Tanya, upon catching my gaze, also laugh.

"You two make horrible faces! " (Sharon)

Sharon puts up a Tsukkomi but this is 2 against 1.g

Sharon has no way of winning.

Sharon was caught by Tanya with me and we, the three people, disappeared

from the main street towards the back alleys of the entertainment area.

At a time like this, the structure of the city, which I had the good idea to research immediately after arrival, became useful.

Preliminary surveys are important.

Tomorrow is the main competition. Let's do our best.

Chapter 114: Former Hero - Spends a warm night

"Welcome back." (Mina)

At night, Mina greeted us three who had returned to the hotel.

I remembered Tanya's sense of smell and I stopped for a moment.

Does Mina have it too? This sharp sense of smell?

I wonder what would she do, if she really found out about it?

Throb.

"? What is the matter?" (Mina)

Mina looks at me who stood at the entrance and tilts her head in puzzlement.

"N-no, it's nothing. I'm back." (Haruto)

"Yes. Thank you for your hard work." (Mina)

"Thank you for your hard work", huh. What does she mean by that?

Is it okay for me to accept it obediently? Or are there any hidden messages in it?

If it's Mina, although she will answer, if I ask her that, it's kinda embarrassing to do it.

I'll put it aside for now.

"Welcome back." (Rithina)

"I'm back." (Haruto)

When I step into the room, everyone else has already returned.

We give our greetings to all of them.

Then Rithina said something in that situation.

"You're coming back late. Did you enjoy it very much?" (Rithina)

Gulp.

Erm.

Un. The problem is not because of the smell or feeling something suspicious,

it's just that my usual doings that I've been found out.

"Y, yeah I guess."

It doesn't mean that I need to feel guilty but I wonder why I feel nervous? Am I really feeling guilty?

Well, it's not like Rithina is angry at me. I also don't feel that she said that for sarcasm either so let's set the troublesome matters aside.

After that, we all ate supper together.

===

I chose fried rice.

There is a kind of crispy meat on it which is unknown to me but it's quite delicious dish even if it's a bit spicy.

This one is the local cuisine of this town.

When I asked Mina about it, she seems know how to cook it if she has the ingredients.

Next time, let's try having it handmade.

"Nee, Haru-kun?" (Kagura)

When I was busy eating the food to fill my empty stomach after finishing various exercises, Kagura-san talked to me while pouting.

"What is it?" (Haruto)

"Today, why were you not using the sword?" (Kagura)

The pouting Kagura-san continued staring at me with a displeased look.

For Kagura-san, her eyes kinda feel like she's watching from the bottom of earth unlike Sharon's sharp, scary eyes. It's a different kind of scary.

If you showed it to small children during something like a test of courage, they might've gotten scared and it becomes a trauma. That would most likely have happened.

Wait, that's not the best time to think about it.

"Kagura-san, today's match. Did you watch it?" (Haruto)

"... since the third round" (Kagura)

"It's because the surrounding audience were spreading rumours so I understood." (Celes)

Kagura-san and Celes answer my question.

Is that so?

Did both of them come to see it?

I'm glad to hear that.

"Mo-re-im-por-tant-ly, Sword. Sword. Sword. Sword. Why you didn't use it?" (Kagura)

Kagura-san ignored my topic and kept pursuing her question.

Why I didn't use the sword?

Fuu...

"... That sword is too strong. Until a powerful enemy appears, I cannot make the mistake of misusing it." (Haruto)

I rolled my eyes as if looking into the distance and say it in a roundabout way as if I have some bitter memories.

There is nothing in my view but only the roof and the wall of the dining room.

"Haru-kun. The sword is still a prototype. It isn't complete yet. I need you to use the prototype so I can check if there are any problems on it or not. If I don't examine its problems, how can I advance to the next step?" (Kagura)

"Ah. Yes. Sorry. I'll use it tomorrow." (Haruto)

She is totally angry.

I will use it. I will definitely use it.

I will definitely use it in the actual tournament tomorrow.

The fact that I didn't use it today is because I would've won the battles even without using it at all so I just decided to keep it for the next day's tournament.

"Make sure you pour magic into it so we can check for how long it will endure real combat. I'll examine it properly." (Kagura)

"Y,yes." (Haruto)

After Kagura-san is done with her protest with those parting words, I return

to my meal.

Although the discussion about the sword made me tired, I am quite excited about it because the goal of making such sword is for it to be able to hold my magical power.

Well, I really appreciate that.

After that, we spent ate our supper while having a comfortable chat.

Laurier told us fervently about how delicious the first-class Balal meat was. It seems she is looking forward to what kind of dishes she will able to eat tomorrow.

If you use this as a trap, I'm sure that as long as Balal meat is being prepared, she will surely be caught in it.

Please watch my match properly too.
Because I am doing my best in it.

===

And then, in the late of night.

After I went out from the bath, I wore warm clothes provided by the hotel.
Is that what I think this is?
Is this a bathrobe?

I put on the bathrobe and slipped quickly in the futon.

Recently, it has gotten colder lately and it will be absurd to catch a cold after getting chilly after the bath.

... It is not bad to get a cold and get nursed I suppose.

I recall the situation after the race in Angel town while I think of this.

No, if it is a cold, my consciousness will be hazy due to fever, which was not my intention.

It would be bad if the cold infected the girls.

Well, after being able to practice my magic, I don't think I will fall sick anyway.

By the way, I took a bath by myself.

I am by myself.

No, entering the bath by myself is fine as well.
It's not like we are going at it every day that much.

Around noon and before evening today, I have done various stuff with Sharon and Tanya.

When I got into the bed, the inside was already warm.
And, a soft object was there. No, it is.

It's Tanya.

Tanya was curled up in the futon and is already sleeping.
Easy victory! Though I want to say that, she seems very tired?

Is it because of me? What should I do?

"Haruto-kun. Why don't we go to sleep for today?" (Rithina)

When I was in the futon and rubbing Tanya's hips and tail, Rithina asked me.

"Eh? No, it's not like I want to sleep though?" (Haruto)

"Is that so? Today was the elimination match so I thought you were tired."
(Rithina)

Even though I was tired, it's not that much that I want to sleep?
That's impossible. Hahaha. Good grief, for a person like Rithina said that.

"But, the main tournament is tomorrow. Isn't it better to take it easy and rest?" (Mina)

Mina has interrupted from the side.

Oh well. If my cat-eared maid said so too.

"This man is not that fragile. Even if Haruto said he was tired, he will get energetic later." (Laurier)

Laurier gets on the bed and respond.

You sure know me well. That's correct.

"Here." (Laurier)

After Laurier said that, she lightly turned over the futon cover.

I, who was touching Tanya in the futon, naturally revealed my full, vigorous

self.

"Oh my." (Rithina)

"This is." (Mina)

"It has already become like this." (Sharon)

"Gulp." (Celes)

Beside Rithina and Mina, there are Sharon and Celes in nearby. In other words, all of the harem members are gazing at me.

It has already this far but as expected, it's still kinda embarrassing. And it's cold too.

"Oi, stupid girl. It's cold, you know" (Haruto)

"Fufun. Everyone, Haruto said it's cold. It might affect him tomorrow, shall we warm him?" (Laurier)

Laurier said that and reached out to me as she wrapped me with her warm palm.

Ou.

"Let's see. It's indeed cold." (Rithina)

"Let's warm him." (Mina)

Rithina's laughing while Mina's eyes were glittering. Both of them go up to the bed.

"Ha,Haruto, you have to work hard tomorrow!" (Sharon)

"Y,yes it is. Oniisan must win the tournament!" (Celes)

Sharon and Celes both replied nervously while getting on the bed as well.

While Tanya... She is asleep, so I'll leave her alone for today. If she wakes up midway, I will decide it at that time.

... More like that is it.

Of course it was my plan, but recently, everyone was quite assertive.

Is it what I think?

As I thought, everyone likes this kind of stuff.

... Grinning broadly.

It is worthwhile to always try my best. It is worth it!

Tonight is also warm.

Chapter 115: Former Hero - Exchanges Promises

The next morning, Tanya and I came to the coliseum after receiving encouragement from everyone.

Finished with the reception, we proceeded to the waiting room for the participants for warm ups.

Un..... I'm getting nervous.

Back during my time as a hero, even though I had been fighting in front of many people who were three times as many, I still didn't feel familiar to it at all.

Right.

To relieve tension during such times, let's do something fun which I got used to.

For instance, Tanya and her softness...

"Good morning. Early as usual, aren't you?" (Aura)

When I was about to reach out to Tanya, Aura entered the participant room together with Leon.

Chi.

"Morning." (Haruto)

We exchanged greetings and afterwards, we spent our time by talking about things like how the four of us felt today, were we enthusiastic or not and so on.

Now, the hall where the main matches will be held is where exhibition matches and opening ceremonies took place and the place where the last victor took an oath.

Even though I planned to have a look if possible, I refrained from doing so because one minor – business came up.

"Doing something so urgently, what for?" (Haruto)

The minor business was... Leon calling out to me and so I came to an empty passage.

In front of me, Leon, who had called me earlier, was standing.

There was no one else here.

"Haruto-san. I want to ask you a favor." (Leon)

After a short pause, Leon broke the silence.

A request ?

"Today's match, I'm sure the first place in the championship is within reach of Haruto-kun.

I also want to win the championship and challenge myself." (Leon)

Leon said with a strangely serious face.

I kept quiet and heard him out.

Fumu ?

" And.... If so, I think that a time will come where I will fight Haruto-san."
(Leon)

Ha.....?

E to..... What do you want to say?

Could it be that he's asking for a biased match ?

Ee.. a hero? Could it be that Leon is this kind of man ?

"If....If I can defeat Haruto-san, could you answer one question of mine?"
(Leon)

Oh. It was different. My bad.

"A question....? I don't really get it but I will reply if you asked even without you defeating me as a condition, you know?" (Haruto)

Of course, it would be excluding some things like the details of my nightly acts with the female members or when I tried to peep into the women's bath during student camping trip to the mountain when I was still in 6th grade.

..... No, I did not peek.

I just tried to peek.

".....If I asked it now and heard the reply right away, it would be meaningless to me.

That's why I wish to defeat you first before hearing the answer." (Leon)

I tried to pass it off lightly, but Leon smiled a bit and said it with humility.

As I thought, I couldn't understand him at all.

" If you want to do it that way, I'm fine with it, but ... I don't intend to lose, you know?" (Haruto)

" Of course. At that time I will do my best!" (Leon)

Toward my confirmation, Leon replied with an expression as if it was a natural thing.

Well, I suppose it's okay then.

However, the thing Leon wanted to ask me..... I wonder what is it?

There is nothing in particular that comes to mind.

The thing he wants to hear.... Thing he wants to hear.

Ah, that's it. I remember.

It was not about me. But if that's the case, then I also had something I wanted to ask him.

The following day after we came to this town, there was a feeling of incongruity when Leon visited us.

Since then, I forgot because I did not feel anything in particular but since this was good chance, why not ask him?

"Is that so. Alright. Let's make a promise. If I win on the other hand, Leon must also answer my question." (Haruto)

".....just a question?" (Leon)

When I brought up the same condition for the promise, Leon's facial expression tightened.

Are?

It was a condition that I came up with on the spot but why are you reacting so seriously?

" Is it too much of a hassle? " (Haruto)

" No, I'm sorry, I didn't mean it. I will accept that condition." (Leon)

I was worried if I had asked for something troublesome, but Leon relaxed his expression and accepted my proposal.

?

Well... it's good I guess ?

"That's about it. Thanks for your trouble. Let's try our best to keep up with each other." (Haruto)

"Ah, understood." (Leon)

Leon said that and then returned to the waiting room.

Leon 's behavior was a bit weird but anyways, let's try to listen after winning it all.

I should return too.

After that, the tournament participants were introduced at the venue after the participant lottery was done.

The venue was exactly like the amphitheater that I had imagined it to be, with just outside a little place on the central round stage.

Spectator seats around it are slowly being filled with people.

I looked at the spectator seats and looked for Celes and Kagura.

Ga, as expected, there are too many people around so I wouldn't see them.

I found the seats prepared for distinguished guests like Rithina pretty quickly.

I could see the seats covered with glass and protruding slightly to the front in a high place. (ED note: Might be a podium like one of those in Roman stadiums)

Meanwhile, I was able to spot Rithina, Mina, Caroin, and Yunikram. Maybe noticing my glance, Rithina waves to me. Lovely.

The view of Laurier eating meat steadily in an arrogant and self-indulgent manner kinda perplexed me.

What is she doing?

Looking down on the audience and the participants from a high place, as if saying "People are like ants" or something like that.

It's not even that high.

Anyway, the lottery had ended and the tournament table was shown.

"My opponent in the first match is the last tournament runner-up?" (Haruto)

I muttered as I looked at the tournament table.

Besides, it was also the first match.

The top four of the previous tournament and the seeded participants were evenly distributed.

If everyone wins, the top four will probably remain the same.

Twelve people who qualified and the remaining ones were arranged by lottery.

Whether you say it's good luck or not, we were placed evenly in each bracket.

If all of us keep winning, the semifinal will be me against Aura.

Tanya and Leon will meet in the semi final too.

So the final will be versus Leon, is it?

Ooh. What a cool tournament arrangement.

Those who promised to fight will have to do so in the finals. That's good.

However there is one exception. What if one of us doesn't manage to reach the final, what will happen then?

"Participant Amagi, please go up to the stage. Round 1 will begin."

When I was thinking about such things, I was called by the match official.

My turn has arrived.

"Haruto, do your best!" (Tanya)

"Ou." (Haruto)

Tanya cheers from behind me as I stand on the main stage.

My opponent arrived a little late.

I see, he doesn't use any weapon. He's the same kind of fighter I have fought in the round four of the preliminaries.

Both of us stand on the center of the stage, facing each other.

While the participants on both sides are being introduced once more, I think about how I should fight.

Because the final tournament has the similar format as the qualifiers, the easiest victory condition will be by making the knocking the opponent out or forcing them out of the field

On the other hand, Kagura will be annoyed later on if I don't use sword today. So I have to use one. Can't help it.

Anyway, let's just finish things quickly so I will do my best from the beginning.

"With that, the tournament's 1st round, 1st match. Please begin."

The beginning of the match is announced.

Oops. I did not even hear the name of my opponent.

What is your name? Forget it, I won't even remember it anyways.

With the start of the match, I pull out my sword and I drew up to the fighter with a dash.

The fighter takes a stance in order to engage me and the moment he entered my range, he quickly threw a punch. He is still a bit too far to attack me. It is then that when I tried to stab my sword, a booming sound can be heard and I felt an impact hit my face.

"Ofu.....!?" (Haruto)

It hurt!?

I was surprised by that hit I did not expect but I managed to halt myself from being propelled too far backwards.

Damn. What was that just now? Magic?

That fist the fighter threw when I was planning to test the water, much earlier than I could; that impact hit my face first.

Here it is. A Sensation like magical power flying from fists? Maybe. It has no aria since there was no indication of chanting.

Did he obtain it through continuous training? I guess that his image has that kind of meaning.

He is indeed the last tournament runner-up. I licked my lip a little contemplatively.

Running after me who flew backwards, the fighter rushed forward this time. And then, he aimed his fist towards me.

Naturally, although the actual fist hasn't reached me, a mass of magical power was fired from that fist just as before.

One shot is not a big deal. Even having received it in the face a little while ago, I was only surprised due to not expecting it. There is no damage although it was painful.

It's the same feeling as receiving an attack in a sports game... or so I want to say. I was actually a bit hurt. My nose feels irritated. And my eyes get a little watery.

But it's still the truth that it doesn't pose much threat for me. As long as I have time to prepare, it is nothing powerful.

But if you continue to receive it, it will naturally add up to actual damage, so it will not be good to accept it willingly.

I concentrate and ascertain the flow of magic.

And then this time, I dodge the the invisible fist that is shot once again.

" ! ? "

The fighter 's feet stopped as he watched me evading the magical fist.

"You only received it once but you have already been able to see through my fist."

The fighter was surprised.

Fu.

It is quite a daunting task to accurately sense flames, ice, and immaterial magical powers.

"Then what about this?"

After he responded with a grin, this time he launched countless fists on the spot.

Oh, that's amazing. Is it possible to perform continuous fire?

To make such a distinctive image that many times, just how long have you swung your fist?

It is but a glimpse of the constant training of this fighter.

.....but still, I'm not done yet myself.

I evaded everything in the myriad of magical fists that are heading towards me.

Though it is a little troublesome to understand the flow of magic accurately, it is not difficult to avoid it as long as I understand it.

As for the number of steps, I fought Sharon who is more overwhelming than this everyday.

Indeed, it won't matter if it can't hit me at all.

However, the fighter backs off everytime I tried to approach.

I was not able to approach quickly as I was watching for the magical fists.

It seems this fighter is more used to long range fight.

I wonder what this is like to the audience.

The fighter doing shadow boxing at a distance and I who kept avoiding unseen attacks.

Does it not look awfully stupid? He is the runner-up so is it a well-known fact that he'll fight this way to some extent?

.....pu.

Imagine yourself being seen from the audience seats; it got a bit interesting.

No, no I may have even laughed in that situation.

It is necessary to put an end to this quickly.

Well, what should I do?

There is nothing else I can do except draw closer. But it is a little troublesome.

Since it's come to this, I can only also use ranged attacks.

I could cast magic, but it is not possible while using Kagura's sword, so a long range attack using a sword...

Let's do the same thing as the fighter is doing right now.

I decided it and take a distance from the fighter.
The fighter does not attempt to close in. How far can that magical power reach?
Well it doesn't matter.

I kept my sword at the height of my back, infusing it with magical power.
Following the magical power that I infused, a line-like pattern emerges in the center of the sword.

The line of sight matches the fighter, so it looks like it is peripheral vision but it is still cool.

Kagura-san did say that it is only a mechanism to pour magical power in the sword and it is designed to conceal it but it is unthinkable to hide this cool thing.

In my opinion, the center part of the sword, the part of the black core of the example is exposed.

The sword shines dimly.

Attention is needed for the amount of magical power that can be put in because I will be disqualified if it inflicts damage to the audience seats.

..... Anyway it's like this.

"Ha!" (Haruto)

The image that my magic power takes is that of a flash.
From the sword, a magical shockwave spreads on the stage.

" Wha...what?! "

The magical powers launched engulfed the fighter and blew him off the stage.
And as side effect, a gust of winds also hit in the audience seats.

Huh..... that's dangerous.
It was more powerful than I thought.

I have to anxiously listen to the announcement at the end of the match.
It's just wind but is it possible to get angry from that?
I'm sure it didn't hurt so it's definitely okay.

I tried to convince myself.

Ha !

While I watch the audience seats worriedly, I notice a female audience's skirts have been lifted up by the wind, and I can partially see their panties. Just right. Moreover, there are another here and there.

Hoo. I didn't mean to. But it's wonderful.

But, as expected, it's not yet time to be happy.

"Tha, that's it ! The winner is Amagi Haruto!"

When the wind calmed down, my victory was announced in the arena that soon becoming noisy.

Chapter 116: Former Hero - Caught In

After the referee announced the end of the 8th match, Tanya, Aura and Leon all managed to win without hassle.

The main tournament soon advanced to the second round.

If I summarize the entire round as seen by me, the participant's level is actually higher than I expected.

To that end, you can see that all of my acquaintances had won, so it's the 'Better than I expected' kind of thing.

I also saw the match of the winner of the last tournament. Even though that guy will fight Leon next, I expect Leon to win nevertheless if that is all this guy can do.

After that, assuming Tanya won her match, it'll be interesting to see Tanya and Leon duke it out in the semifinal.

Tanya is a little weaker than Sharon if I were to evaluate her.

But, Tanya has unpredictable and unusual moves unique to beastmen. And she is also aggressive and precise when attacking, making her quite a tricky opponent.

When I fought Tanya for the first time, I remember having a hard time for a while.

Though I missed Sharon and Leon's fight in the qualifiers, seeing her practice this past week, it will be about for how long will Leon be able to respond properly to Tanya's movement.

If she can avoid taking hits, I guess Tanya may have a chance.

Conversely, if Leon can respond properly, Tanya will have no chance of winning.

.....hmm, how is that ?

I trained with Leon for a week in joint practice so I knew what to expect.

Since it's a unique tournament, everyone was excited since they didn't know

who's gonna win.

Well, never mind that.

I'm participating not because I'm looking for excitement or the likes.
My target this time is money and fame.

Such a practical thought. But that's how it is.

"Hey you. Can I ask you for a moment?" (Melissabelle)

When I was predicting the tournament results, an amorous voice greets me.

Turning around, I saw a big-breasted, blonde-haired Onee-chan is standing before me with a fairly wide amount of exposure.

This person....

"What is it?" (Haruto)

Responding, I turn towards the blonde nee-chan.
This blonde nee-chan is my next opponent.

From seeing the first round, this person is the weakest among the main participants.

Rather, she somehow managed to get past the qualifier. Well, maybe the level is just as much.

"My name is Mirabelle. Nice to meet you " (Melissabelle)

The sister threw a friendly smile, then sits next to me.

Too close, too close, too close.

Our shoulders touch.

There, our hands touch then unite.

From there, she starts to lean closer and I get to see the superb cleavage of the blonde sister.

"Eeto... what is it?" (Haruto)

I tried to probe Mirabelle while enjoying the view and tentatively asked.

Even so, I can roughly guess it already.

I understand from watching round 1.

This is the 'honey trap' type of opponent.

This morning, there was a little delay after the lottery for the match. I do not know whether it hit luckily with the other person who got in beforehand but I suspect a fixed match.

"When I saw you fight in round 1, I was really impressed." (Mirabelle)

As she said so, Mirabelle pressed her body to me.

Ou.

Somehow, my arm is caught between Mirabelle's breasts.
W-why does it feel so comfortable in that place?

No, that's not the time for it.

Shortly, it will be my turn next.

"It was amazing. Splendidly avoiding the invisible attacks of Deste and defeating him with a single blow." (Mirabelle)

Mirabelle enthusiastically praised me as she grinded her body to me.

I can't take it anymore, sister.

My first opponent in round 1; his name was Deste? I only found it now.

Mirabelle's face slithers up my shoulder, sending warm sighs upon my ear. My arm is framed in between her breasts and the tip of my finger is caught between her thighs.

I know it feels great, but I can't afford to hold on for too long.

I rode on the same feelings and moved my fingertips stuck between Mirabelle's thighs which felt amazing.

"Fufu..... I, I really truly like you." (Mirabelle)

As I moved my fingers between her thighs, I find it so easy to sneak in as she takes my remaining hand and gently resting it on her breast.

Seriously? W-where exactly is this going to lead to ?
However, this is somewhat painful to me.

Unaware of my worry, Mirabelle's hand gently strokes my thigh.

Uwaaa. This has become terribly dangerous.
Both arms intertwined. My hands sandwiched and touching. Mirabel's hand stroking.

There is not a single person in the waiting room since it's the noon break after the first round.

Aura, Tanya and Leon aren't here as well.

In the waiting room, there is only Mirabelle and I. Such a great timing. Naturally, Mirabelle might have set up the timing. Actually I have anticipated it and she stayed by herself for that reason.

"Ahn~. You are quite good with your hands. What an awfully erotic way of touching." (Mirabelle)

Well, err, yes. I agree. It is the result of daily training.

"Hey.... tonight, do you want to have more fun with me?" (Mirabelle)

Mirabelle's lips are touching my ears and, while I couldn't comprehend whether she did or not, whispers the sweet temptation

Ee, for real ?
Is that for real ?

We just spoke for the first time like a while ago. Aren't you easy going, Mirabelle?

I quietly focused on Mirabel's thighs and breasts as much as possible while listening to her.

"But.... before that, I have a reason why I must reach the top in this tournament first." (Mirabelle)

"Ee.... a reason?" (Haruto)

Suddenly, Mirabelle becomes gloomy, as she start telling her story.

"I have a debt. It's necessary since I have to support my younger brother and sister.... " (Mirabelle)

"Oh I see. " (Haruto)

A debt. It's serious.

"You also know it right? By finishing as best four in this tournament, other than the prize, they will also give you good food, clothing and housing for a year?" (Mirabelle)

"It seems to be so." (Haruto)

Incidentally, such a thing was written in the participation outline.

"I want to enter best four by all means!" (Mirabelle)

Mirabelle seems to be trying to shake my feelings as she looked at me with her watery eyes.

However, the hand that is feeling my thigh doesn't stop. It started far down on the thighs, but is already moving completely toward the base, that is.

"Is that so?" (Haruto)

"Yes, it is." (Mirabelle)

After she replied, our arms that had been intertwined until now is released and Mirabelle stood up in a hurry.

Aah, so cold.

Mirabel's body temperature that I felt before was lost, it became cold at once I feel a brush of anxiety and frustration.

"So that's why... you se...?" (Haruto)

Mirabelle gazed into my eyes and I stare back in.

She's indeed cute.

That's why I will tell you.

In a gentle to the utmost voice.

"I see. It'll be good if you can return the debt" or something like that.

「.....」

「.....」

Mirabelle and I stare at each other for a while.

"Etto....." (Haruto)

"What is it?" (Mirabelle)

Actually, I could not measure the real intention within her words, as I watched the curious Mirabelle there.

"U, uun. Never mind. Then tonight, after the tournament ended, shall we meet at the town entrance?" (Mirabelle)

I do not know how she interpreted it, but Mirabel said so and brought her body closer again.

"The town entrance. I understand." (Haruto)

"Yeah. Then, until later. Bye." (Mirabelle)

After I confirmed it, Mirabelle bid me goodbye, her soft breath whiffing against my ear before she left.

As she left, I watched her swaying, perky butt.

.....that aside, what should I do about the current state of my lower half?

It's agonizing.

And, aside from that, of course I will not give up the victory to Mirabelle.

Even if I considered myself weak to girls, I will not fall to the temptation of this fixed match.

She didn't ask me for anything, nor did I agree to do something.

I've experienced this kind of thing with Mina before but this and that are a different story.

Rather, I thought that my spirit has grown compared to that time.
No, I may not have grown as I originally thought.

I became strong!

Living with six lovely girls, experiencing enjoyment every evening, is very much a temptation.

Fuhahaha.

But.. well, I have to admit that being sandwiched like that is pleasant.
And, breasts aside, the smooth thighs were also a major enjoyment.

Squeezing your face tightly, it'll be awesome.

No, I must not. If that part becomes too energetic, it'll be impossible to sit straight.

"What are you bending forward for?" (Tanya)

Before I'm aware of it, Tanya has returned to the waiting room.

"No, wait... " (Haruto)

I look up at Tanya who stand there.

There, at the two big heavenly mountains, I stared in perplexion.

「.....」

「.....」

Tanya and I stare at each other.

"Fu."

"Fu."

Me and Tanya synchronized.

Mind to mind understanding.

The second round, it's still about forty minutes later.

I decided to have lunch.

The second round.

The result is, of course, I won.

Even so, I am sorry about destroying the Mirabelle's armor with my sword, even after holding firmly on her back a little, I dropped her out.

Mirabel said that there is a debt and destroying the little armor was a pain in my heart, but if I didn't test out the sword, I'll be stared at by Kagura later on, so I have no choice. It can't be helped.

I didn't forget to say several things to Mirabelle.

Mirabelle-san.

Tonight at the town entrance.

I will wait.

At that time, I'll make amends for destroying her armor.

.....though she might not come.

Chapter 117: Former Hero - Meet with a Goddess

All the second round matches are over and the top four of the tournament are set.

There was no problem from my point of view, as it's me, Tanya, Aura and Leon who remained.

From tournament bystander, it's a shocking development to not see even one of the previous best 4 present.

As the notable match for the second round, it was probably Leon against the winner of the previous tournament.

Though I expected Leon to win easily, his opponent showed that he really was the previous tournament champion.

They had a fairly fierce battle which was quite impressive.

Especially, the final attack that the two had executed.

As a result, Leon won the match.....well even I, as a man, will feel excited if you show such a thing.

Well, apart from impressions left on me by the match, my interest changes to Aura, his subordinate.

The long black-haired female knight is all too serious, but I could understand that much from the one week joint practice.

From the love-comedy that happened during lunch breaks, I assessed she was head over heels about Leon, filled with the L-word to the brim but it didn't seem to be case unexpectedly.

No, although I don't understand the mind of other people to the level of reading their subconscious, I couldn't feel that from her usual conduct and actions for now.

That love comedy field too, Aura seemed to treat it as one of the two attackers from hero party to the bitter end.

There seemed to be a situation where Caroline overreacted and that situation

was born.

Caroline and Aura get along well as usual.

As for Leon, he seems to be having trouble as he was suddenly involved in such a situation.

Towards my question “Then, if you decide to go out with Caroline, won’t you give Caroline a peace of mind?” Leon replied as usual, “Not until I manage to defeat the Demon King. I haven’t thought about it yet”.

He is too serious.

In a certain meaning, Leon really is my opposite.

That’s how it is.

Even so, he didn’t deny the fact that he felt attached to Caroline even as he said “Not until I manage to defeat the Demon King”.

Leon being Leon, he isn’t as annoying as he makes us believe.

He blushed a bit and replied “Right now that’s kinda... with Caroline.” Acting like grade schooler with their first love. How old are you really?

I do not know clearly because I have a hard time remembering but he’s supposed to be about 20 years old. I think so.

He’s taller than me.

.....chi.

Apart from that, he’s inexperienced. He is really has no experience.

For him to say such a pure things with a red face.

That’s probably the way he is, isn’t it? It’s me who’s a simpleton.

Leon... How should I put it? That’s often the case they people of this would wouldn’t know such a thing right?

As he manages to say something like “I want to protect... The person important to me, so I can’t die in such place!” he would use his secret power to overcome your hardships or something.

Isn’t it that important too?

Also, it can turn into a death flag if you take a wrong step, you know?

That's why in order to avoid the situation like "After this fight ends, I have something to say to you...", it is better after all to quickly finish the goals you've set out to accomplish so that you should be able to break any strange flags, shouldn't you?

Well, it's not like there is a system that decides life and death through such a thing in reality anyways.

And, leaving that aside, let's return the thought about the romantic circumstances of the hero's party.

If Leon and Caroline are unexpectedly in love with each other, that leaves Aura and Yunikram... to think about.
I kinda like these two as a couple.

Then, Yunikram came in a moment after being called by Leon then the three of us eat our meal together.

So I use my privilege as their master and tried asking the serious duo about this matter.

Apparently, Yunikram seems to have a wife back in the Royal Capital. An astonishing fact. He's married!

As it turns out, he seemed to have married several month before he joined the hero's party. With his childhood friend as his fiancée.

I felt sorry for his wife since a newlywed husband left her had to join the Demon King subjugation, but when I asked about it, Yunikram said "Because she's a knight's wife, she was prepared for that much. There is no problem." Seriously?

Also, "that much" part. Don't you feel any worry? It's not just to show a facade in front of her husband right?

I'm trembling due to Yunikram's coolness.

The misfortune of being a Hero's companion; I feel sorry for disliking you before.

"Haruto-sama himself, having the ability and charm to attract numerous women including the princess, I respect you highly since it is impossible for me."

(Yunikram)

Due to the way it's said, I don't know if it's a compliment or not but since it's Yunikram, it probably is a honest praise.

He's a really capable man.

In this world, it's not unusual for people with influence to be surrounded by ladies.

Rithina had said so as well.

But not all of them are.

Assuming the Leon could draw fortune for a long time, he probably wouldn't have gone with 2 people. So wasteful of him.

Yunikram is like that as well.

This means that, among the hero's party love circumstances, only Aura is left behind.

....well, it's what I have been thinking about this for a long time now and, in a way, that's the reason.

Black hair. Tall. Female Knight. Beautiful. I'll want her.

"Amagi-dono." (Aura)

While I was still thinking an evil plan for her, Aura called out to me.

"Yo. Let's do our best in the semifinal." (Haruto)

I responded to her while paying close attention so that my inner thoughts wouldn't appear on my face.

"Yes! I am planning to ask Amagi-dono to lend his strength to me in a spar as someone much more skilled!"

Aura speaks with enthusiasm with her back straightened to the point it looked lovely. She has Sharon's' unabashed energy.

This chest, you can borrow it anytime.

Rather, I also want to borrow yours. Literally.

(TLC Note: it's a pun on 胸を借りる, literally meaning to borrow one's chest, but first refers to sparring with someone of higher skill while the latter is literal)

meaning).

Gufu.

"Amagi-dono ? Are you in top condition? It seems that your complexion is quite bad?" (Aura)

Gu....

My condition isn't bad.

My thinking is.

This girl is outrageous.

"No, no, I'm fine. That's not it." (Haruto)

I covered my mouth with my hand and said to Aura so.

"Really? It's good then." (Aura)

This girl is being kind even to her next opponent. As expected.

.....fumu.

But the thing is.

Even if I try to get close to Aura, she's still a member of hero's party.

Once the tournament ended, we will go our separate ways.

I would like to have some sort of chance within the allotted time if possible.

....

.....un.....

"Amagi-dono... is something wrong with me?"

What did I do that, while looking at Aura's beautiful face, caused her to make a dubious face.

It's something obvious to me now. Aura is probably the perfect image of an insensitive female knight.

To begin with, she said that she did not know love before. It may be because there is really no place to think about the difference between a man and a woman.

"Listen. Aura, do you happen to have a lot of brothers?" (Haruto)

I ask what is on my mind without thinking.

"You understand me well. I do have three elder brothers and two younger brothers. " (Aura)

Aura told me with a hint of surprise in her voice.

She didn't mention about having a sister. Does that mean she's the only daughter?

However, it's really as I thought.

I also have the same experience.

Though it's the story when I grew up in the orphanage, the girl who used to play with the boys tend to have a very ambiguous sense of the surroundings.

To be specific, she bathed with the boys and wore clothes full of gaps during summer and tank tops, It's pretty obvious that important things were all visible.

In Japan, if you go to elementary school, you will understand men and women in society and in your life in no time, but perhaps it is probably that there is no indication about gender differences for those walking the path of the knight, like Aura.

.....grin.

"I see. By the way, if I'm not mistaken ,Sharon and Laurier will come visit you tonight?" (Haruto)

" Ee? Ah, yes! The two will indeed come over! Tonight, did they have some business to take care of? So, should I postpone the plan?" (Aura)

Aura replies to my sudden iquestion.

After today's tournament, Sharon and Laurier said that they would go stay at Aura's place.

Let's have two people out of the picture and activate a strategy of approaching Aura.

" Ah, no, it's not something important... actually... If possible, I would like to have a go with those two, but things went awry and it couldn't be helped."

(Haruto)

"?"

Even I don't understand what I just said.

Aura even more unlikely to do so.

Aura waits for the continuation of my words with a curious expression.

No way. It's lovely.

No that's not it.

"If I win this tournament, I would like to spend the night with two of them if possible." (Haruto)

"Yes. If that so, the schedule will be.... " (Aura)

"No no, I can meet them anytime. Those two has been looking forward to meet Aura too, postponing it will be bad." (Haruto)

"Ye, yes "

What are those two people willing to do if I win?

Of course. Celebrating the victory.

" Then I have one request, if I win..... I wonder if Aura will come to stay over with us?"

I don't know it myself.

But isn't it a surprisingly good argument?

Is it not the perfect argument for me?

" Me... ? " (Aura)

To my request, Aura gives it some thought.

Doki doki.

".....Understood. If that is so, then tonight I will be in your care." (Aura)

Aura easily agreed to my request.

Success! Easy peasy.

No, it is not like I worry about being attacked by Aura. Isn't it a strange thing?

After all, Aura is a little bit conscious of men.

Leon and Yunikram are serious and they may get worried if something happen in the future.

I have to tell them that it's alright.

Gufufu.

"Amagi-dono, as I expected, you aren't in top condition, are you? "

Aura anxiously looks at my face.

To me who thinks of such dishonest things, how sweet she is.
Is she a goddess? The goddess has descended to earth. I'm in love.

Nice work me!

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Okay, now is the time for **Raizu's Quest**.

—

Reward: A new chapter of **Glutton Berserker**

Quest Duration: One week until next weekend batch.

Rules:

1. Watch the video (subscribe and give like if you have google account).
2. The video views reaching 1,000.
3. Once the condition on point 1 and 2 cleared, a new chapter of Glutton Berserker will be released within 3-6 days.
4. Special reward: If the views exceed 1,000 and reaching 2,000, another bonus chapter of **a random chapter** will be unlocked.

—

Oh, dont worry if the quest failed, I'll posting the new chapter like usual on the weekend.

Good luck and have fun!